









Yet, the traveler is in the midst of her long, long journey...  
And this story will be but a small part of that sojourn.



# Characters

Shoulder-a-Coffin Kuro

○ sen,  
Bat

○ Kuro,  
Traveler

○ sanJU,  
CHILD

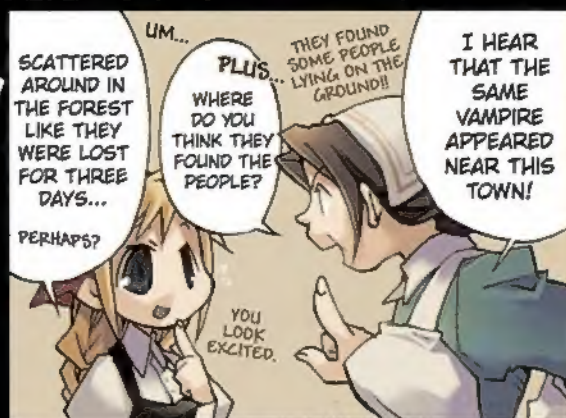
○ niJUKU,  
CHILD















IT'S BOTHERING ME, I CAN'T REST.

CLACK CLACK



COULD IT BE? COULD IT REALLY BE!?

Y-Y-Y-YES! I'M FINE.

WHAT'S WRONG, IDA? YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST.



I'VE GOT A CROSS AND GARLIC READY.

I'LL BE FINE!

I JUST NEED TO PEEK INTO THE ROOM AND CHECK...



COULD THAT TRAVELER BE THE RUMORED VAMPIRE?

IF SO...



LET'S SEE... IT WAS THE ROOM IN THE BACK.

THAT'S WHERE THEY'RE STAYING...



...SHE MIGHT BE AFTER SOMEONE STAYING HERE!

.....



!

REACH



IDA, YOU CAN CALL IT A DAY. GO REST.

BIT-TEN!?

OH, YEAH. YOU HAVE RED DOTS ON YOUR NECK AND ARMS.

DARN IT, I WAS BITTEN AT WORK TODAY.

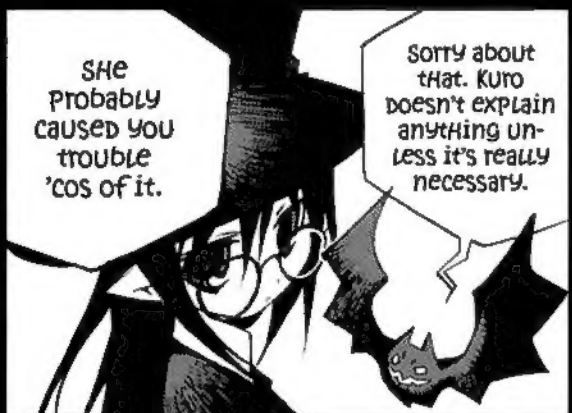
MOS-QUITOS?

PLUNCH

CRAASH















...LEAVING  
BEHIND THE  
MYSTERY  
OF THE  
TRAVELER'S  
IDENTITY...

AND SO  
THEY  
LEFT TO  
CONTINUE  
THEIR  
JOURNEY...



TRAV-  
ELER-  
SAN!

...WAIT!



NEVER  
SAW  
THOSE  
TRAV-  
ELERS  
AGAIN.

WHAT  
DID SHE  
GIVE  
US?

HEY,  
KURO-  
CHA.

HUH?

AFTER  
THE DAY  
THEY  
TOOK  
OFF...

SNACKS?



WHAT'S  
WRONG?

HELLO,  
NICE LADY  
FROM THE  
INN.

OH,  
HELLO.



...SHE'S  
IN THE  
MIDST  
OF HER  
LONG,  
LONG  
JOUR-  
NEY...

RUSTLE

LET'S  
SEE...

YET  
SOME-  
HOW, I  
KNOW...

HURRY  
HURRY!



...WANTED  
TO THANK  
YOU AND  
APOLOGIZE  
TOO.

THIS  
IS ALL  
I CAN  
DO.

UM, I  
MADE  
THIS.

?



...WILL  
BE BUT  
A SMALL  
PART OF  
THAT SO-  
JOURN.

WOW.

WHY  
THIS?

...AND  
GARLIC  
TOAST?

SOME  
TOMATO  
JUICE...

...AND  
THIS  
STORY...



THANK  
YOU.

.....





The little girls asked the traveler dressed in black,  
"You're all dressed in black, Traveler-san. Who are you?"



SOME-  
ONE'S  
THERE.



LOOK.



I CAME  
FROM  
OVER  
THERE.




WHERE DID  
YOU COME  
FROM?



ONII-SAN,  
WHO ARE  
YOU?



OVER  
HERE.



WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?

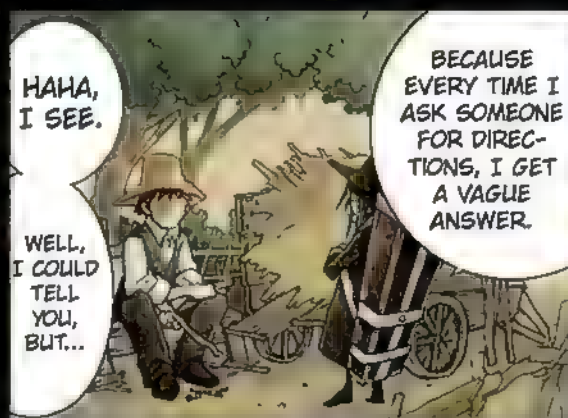
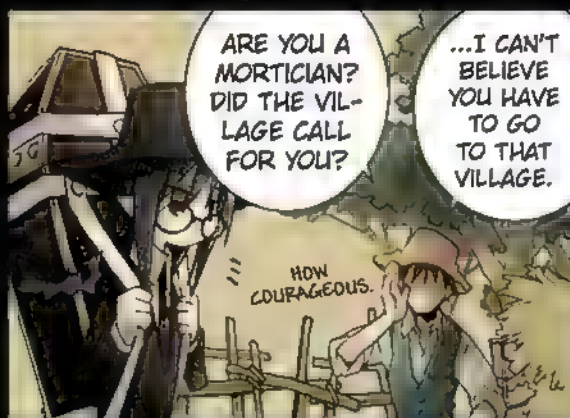
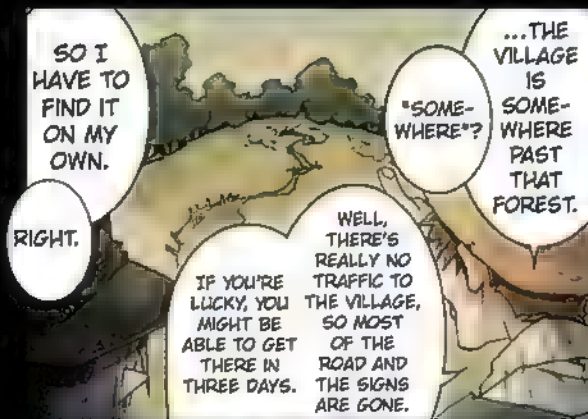


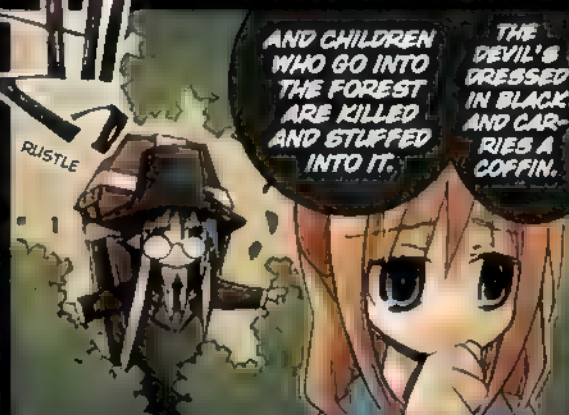
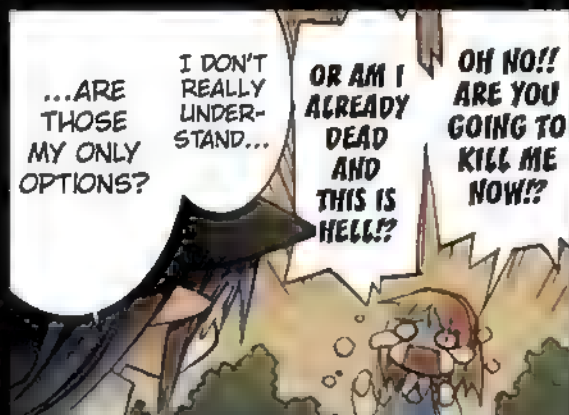
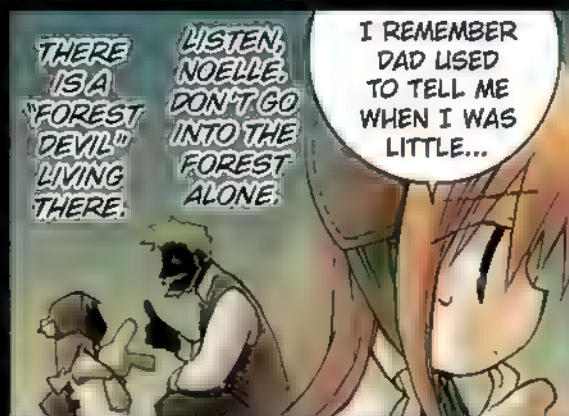
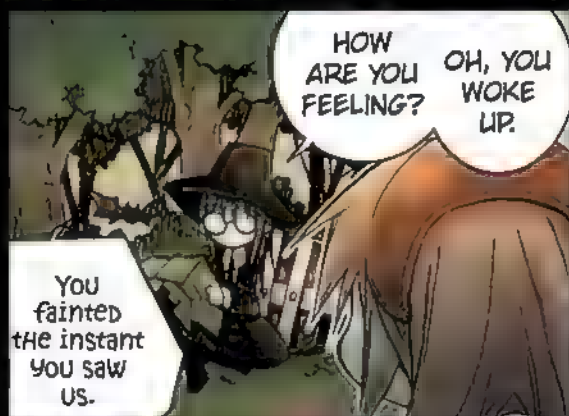
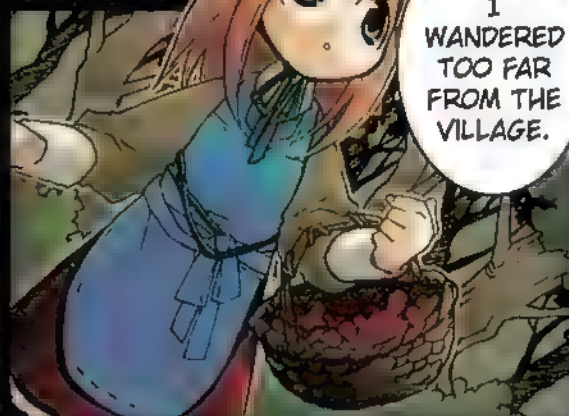
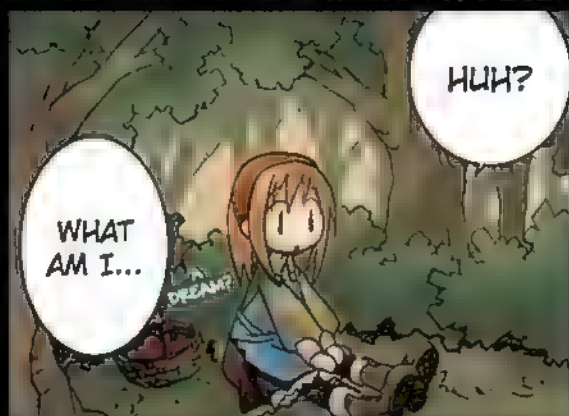
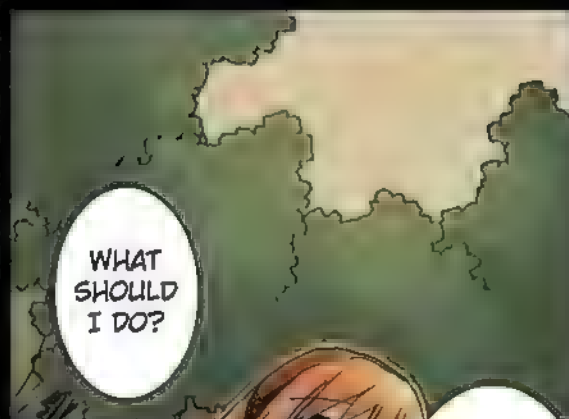
NOT  
SURE...



I WONDER  
WHAT HE  
DOES?

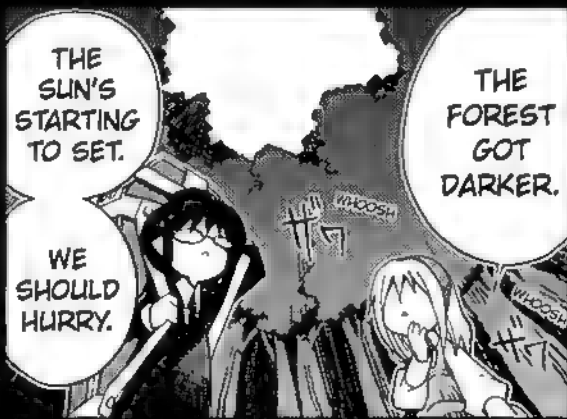












THE  
SUN'S  
STARTING  
TO SET.

WE  
SHOULD  
HURRY.

THE  
FOREST  
GOT  
DARKER.



...DON'T  
WORRY!

OH,  
BUT...

ARE  
YOU  
LOST  
TOO?



OH...

HOLD  
MY HAND  
SO YOU  
DON'T GET  
LOST.



OH! GOOD  
JOB.

I MARKED  
THE WAY  
AS I  
WALKED.



I USED  
BREAD  
FROM  
BREAK-  
FAST.

I TORE IT  
AND LEFT  
A TRAIL



OH!!  
I'M  
SOR-  
RY!!

JUST  
SO YOU  
KNOW, I'M  
A GIRL.



I THINK  
YOU COULD  
JUST TELL  
HER THAT WE  
CAN'T GET  
HOME.

once upon  
a time, there  
was a fairy  
tale about a  
house made  
out of ginger-  
bread.

OH, I see.  
Well,  
let me  
tell you  
a story.

SEX! RUSTLE RUSTLE





MAYBE IT'S DANGEROUS TO WALK BLINDLY IN THE DARK.

IT'S ALMOST PITCH BLACK.



OH, I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED AND HUNGRY.

ARE YOU OKAY?

HEE HEE!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE



BECAUSE NOW, I CAN USE SEN WITHOUT FEELING BAD.

I'M USING MY TRUMP CARD TO FIND THE VILLAGE.

TRAVELER-SAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HEY!  
...THOUGH YOU'RE RIGHT.

CLINK



I HAVE THE BERRIES I PICKED.

I KNOW!



YES?

OH, BY THE WAY, I NEED TO REMIND YOU.

DON'T FAINT AGAIN.

SFX: CLIP CLIP



OH...



SEN, YOU'RE BEING DISRESPECTFUL TO THE FAIRY TALE AND THE ANIMALS.

If you aren't careful in the forest, the bread crumbs and berries will be eaten by the animals of the forest.

THIS IS THE MORAL OF THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE STORY!!

YOU SEE...

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP







NO-ELLE!!

DAD! MOM!!



NO... NOT YET.

DID YOU FIND HER?



BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.

DON'T CAUSE US SUCH HEART-ACHE, NOELLE.

I'M SORRY...



OH, NOELLE...

WE CAN'T RISK GOING FARTHER INTO THE FOREST.

SHOOT...



I JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY, THAT'S ALL.

THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY DAUGHTER.

ARE YOU A TRAVELER?



NO WAY!

DEVIL?

WHAT'S THAT?

DO YOU THINK NOELLE WAS KILLED BY THE DEVIL?



Don't agree just because you got too lazy for explanations.

YES.

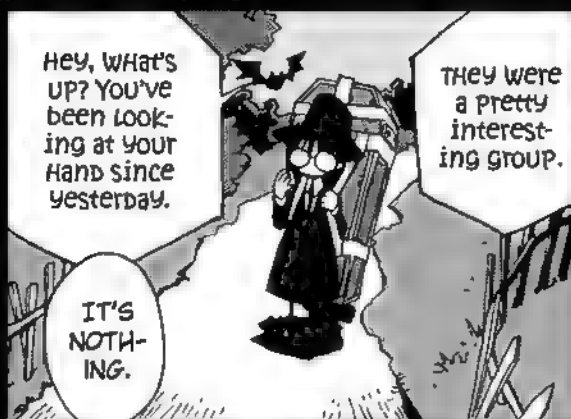
POOR THING, FROM WHAT I SEE, YOU LOST A FELLOW TRAVELER, TOO.

THANK YOU.



THERE'S NO WAY THERE'S SOMEONE DRESSED IN BLACK CARRYING A COFFIN.

THAT'S JUST A FIB WE TOLD KIDS TO STOP THEM FROM GOING INTO THE FOREST.



HEY, WHAT'S UP? YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT YOUR HAND SINCE YESTERDAY.

THEY WERE A PRETTY INTERESTING GROUP.

IT'S NOTHING.



OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.

GOOD MORNING, MOM.

YOU SLEPT ALL DAY YESTERDAY, YOU KNOW.



...IS A PROBLEM NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.

BUT YOU KNOW, THAT COFFIN OF YOURS...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST THROW IT AWAY?



SHE LEFT ALREADY.

WHERE DID THE TRAVELER GO?

SO SOON!?



I CAN'T...

...DO THAT.



...BUT SHE TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT SHE TOOK CARE OF HER BUSINESS.

SHE WAS LOOKING AROUND AROUND VARIOUS PLACES IN THE VILLAGE YESTERDAY...

OH...



BECAUSE IF I STAY THIS WAY...

...BY THE TIME MY JOURNEY ENDS,

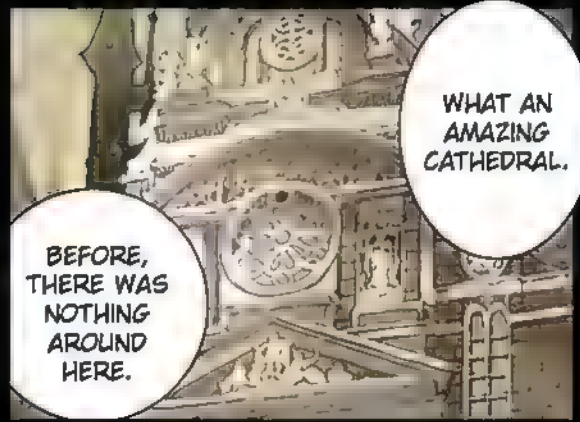
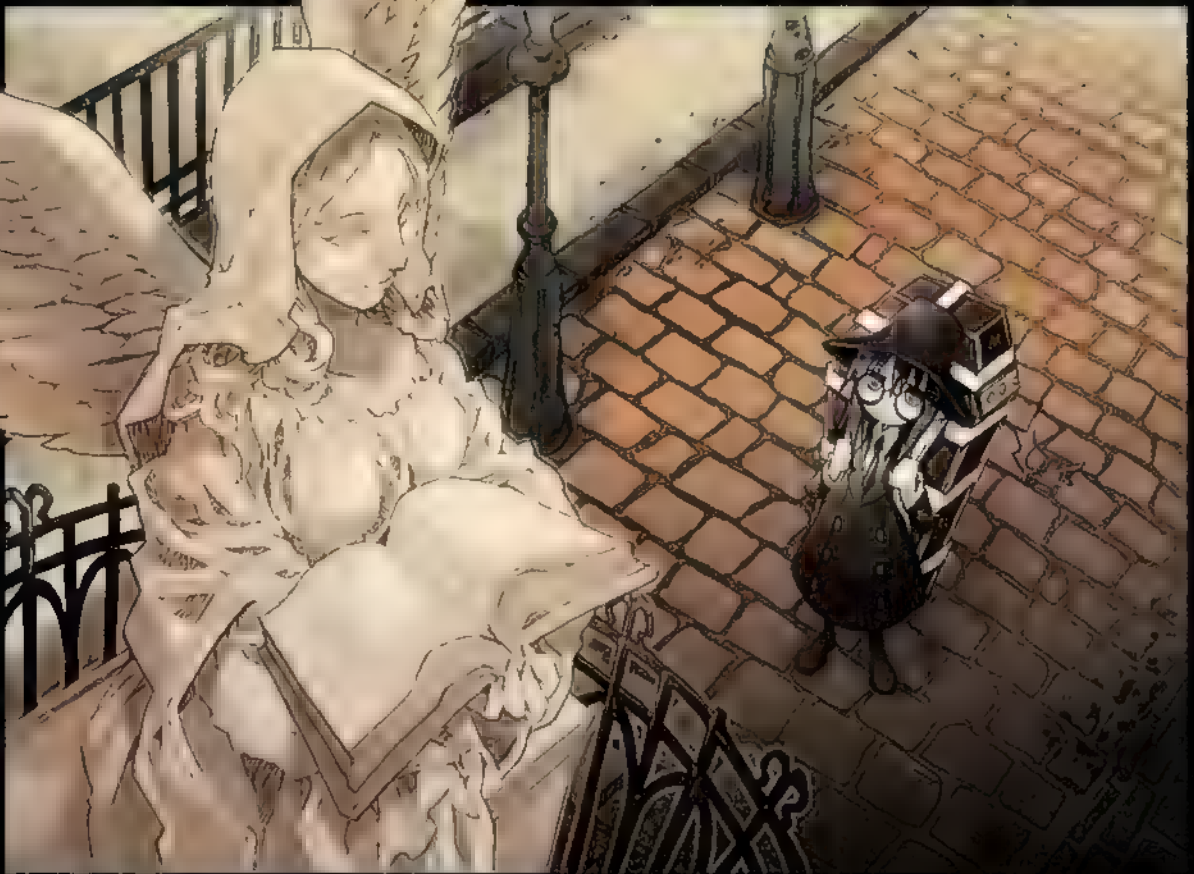
...I'M GOING TO NEED IT.

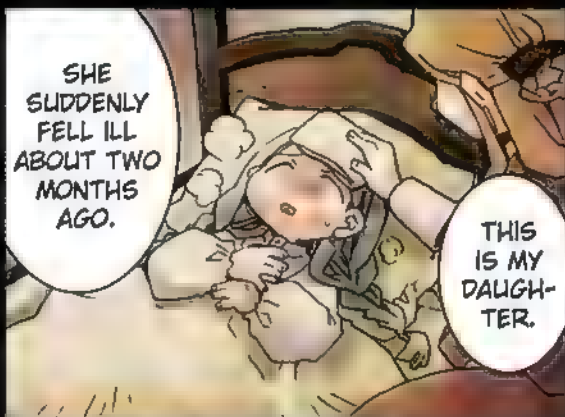


I DIDN'T GET TO ASK...

...FOR HER NAME...

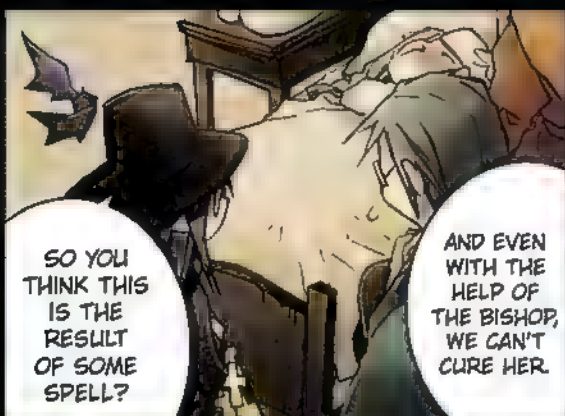






SHE  
SUDDENLY  
FELL ILL  
ABOUT TWO  
MONTHS  
AGO.

THIS  
IS MY  
DAUGH-  
TER.



SO YOU  
THINK THIS  
IS THE  
RESULT  
OF SOME  
SPELL?

AND EVEN  
WITH THE  
HELP OF  
THE BISHOP,  
WE CAN'T  
CURE HER.



EX-  
CUSE  
ME.

UM...

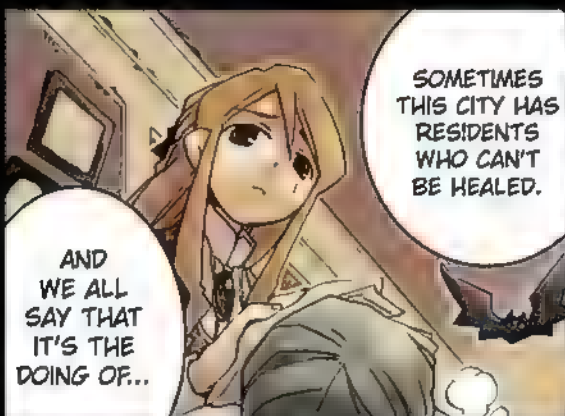


HUH?

BY THE WAY,  
WE HAVE  
ENOUGH  
CROSSES,  
THANK YOU.

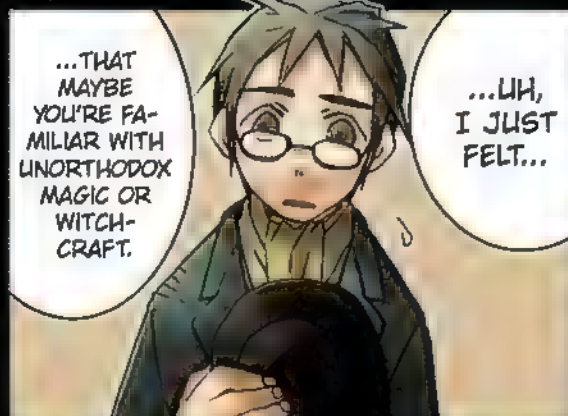
YES?

UM,  
ACTU-  
ALLY...



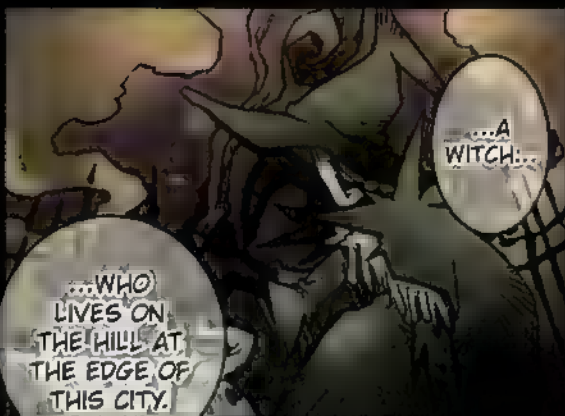
AND  
WE ALL  
SAY THAT  
IT'S THE  
DOING OF...

SOMETIMES  
THIS CITY HAS  
RESIDENTS  
WHO CAN'T  
BE HEALED.



...THAT  
MAYBE  
YOU'RE FA-  
MILIAR WITH  
UNORTHODOX  
MAGIC OR  
WITCH-  
CRAFT.

...UH,  
I JUST  
FELT...



...WHO  
LIVES ON  
THE HILL AT  
THE EDGE OF  
THIS CITY.

...A  
WITCH...



I CAN'T  
REALLY  
EXPLAIN  
IT WELL...  
SO WOULD  
YOU PLEASE  
COME  
TO MY  
HOUSE?

we've  
never had  
someone  
be so blunt  
about it.

SO YOU'RE  
SAYING WE  
LOOK SUS-  
PICIOUS.



HEY!  
COULD  
IT BE...?

...A  
WITCH...



IS IT  
REALLY  
THIS  
HOUSE?

It's an  
unex-  
pectedly  
simple  
dwell-  
ing.



HUH?

LET'S  
GO,  
SEN.

UM,  
TRAV-  
ELER!

SHE LIVES  
ON THE HILL  
AT THE EDGE  
OF THIS CITY,  
RIGHT?



OH.  
UH, YES.

OH? HOW  
UNUSUAL.  
ARE YOU A  
TRAVELER?

I HEARD  
THAT  
THERE WAS  
A WITCH  
LIVING  
AROUND  
HERE...

SHUT  
UP  
SEN.

OOH,  
SHE'S  
HOT!



I DON'T  
KNOW...

IS SHE  
REALLY  
GOING TO GO  
FOR US?

I WONDER  
WHAT'S  
GOING ON?

I WONDER  
IF SHE'S IN  
THE SAME  
BUSINESS?



HUH?

THAT'S  
PROBABLY  
ME.

OH  
MY!



...MADE  
THE MOST  
TERRIFYING  
FACE FOR  
A SECOND.

BUT  
THAT  
TRAV-  
ELER...

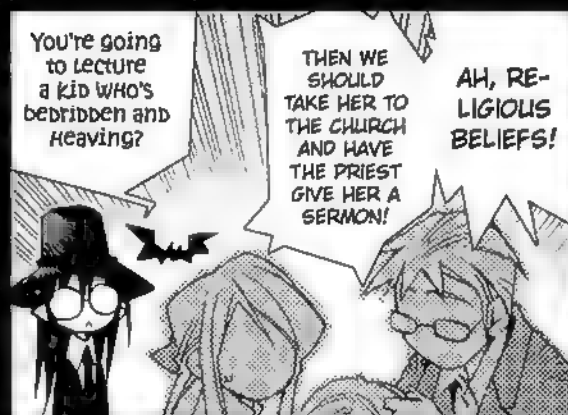





















I WONDER  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?



THEY WON'T  
TURN INTO  
ASH IF THEY  
GO INTO THE  
SUN, RIGHT?

DO  
YOU THINK  
THEY CAN'T  
LEAVE THIS  
PLACE?



I GUESS  
THEY'VE  
NEVER REALLY  
STEPPED  
OUTSIDE.



THEY'RE  
HESITAT-  
ING.

OR ARE  
THEY  
SCARED  
STIFF?



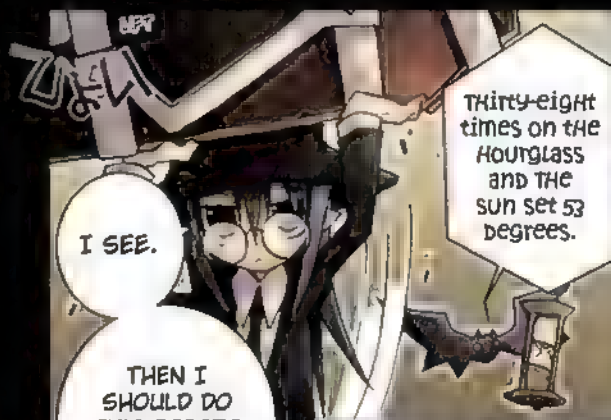
ONE  
HAND ISN'T  
ENOUGH,  
"KURO..."

...SINCE  
THERE  
ARE TWO  
OF THEM.

LET'S  
GO.

COME  
ON!

IT'S  
OKAY.



I SEE.

THIRTY-EIGHT  
TIMES ON THE  
HOURGLASS  
AND THE  
SUN SET 53  
DEGREES.

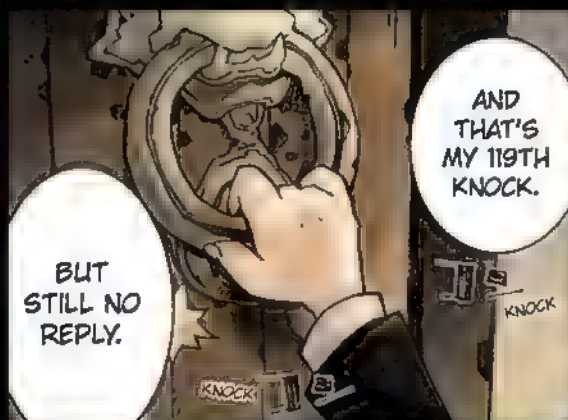
THEN I  
SHOULD DO  
THIS BEFORE  
IT GETS  
DARK.



HUH!?

wai—  
hey!!

CRASH

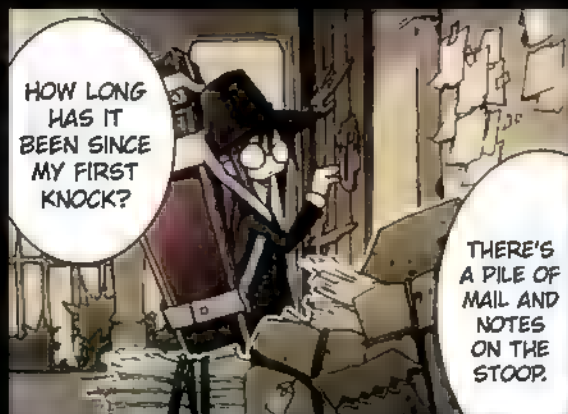


BUT  
STILL NO  
REPLY.

AND  
THAT'S  
MY 119TH  
KNOCK.

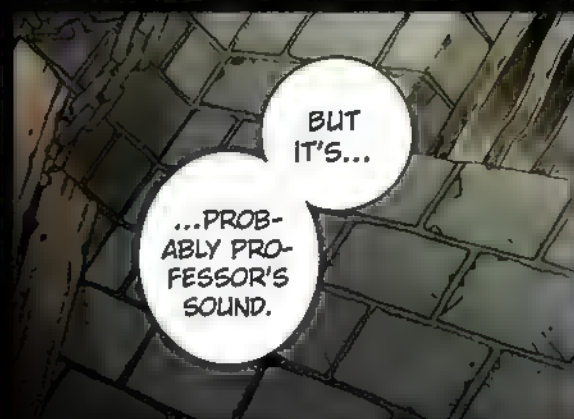
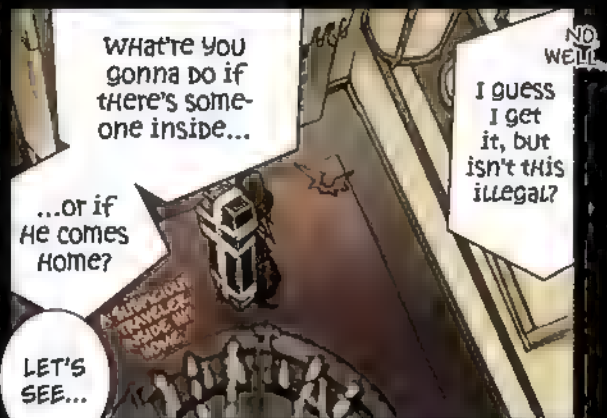
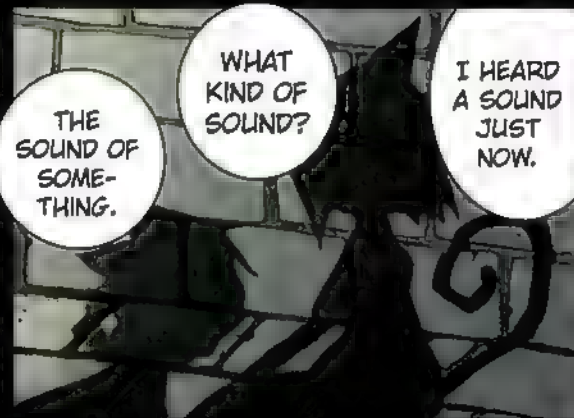
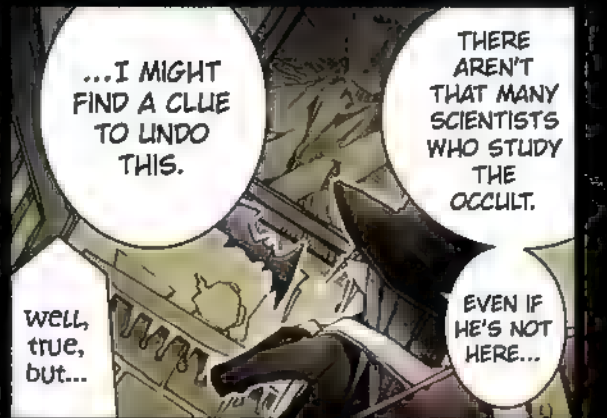
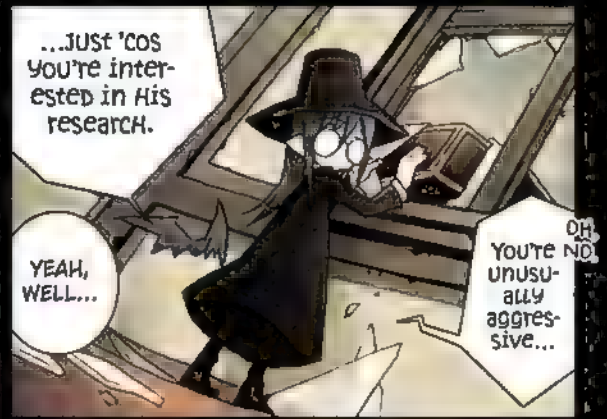
KNOCK

KNOCK



HOW LONG  
HAS IT  
BEEN SINCE  
MY FIRST  
KNOCK?

THERE'S  
A PILE OF  
MAIL AND  
NOTES  
ON THE  
STOOP.







I  
WONDER  
WHY?

THE  
BASE-  
MENT'S  
FULL OF  
PRISON  
CELLS.



WE'LL  
BE EF-  
FICIENT...

LET'S  
SEARCH THE  
MANSION.



!

IS IT THE  
PROFES-  
SOR?

HERE HE  
COMES!



GIVE ME ANY  
INFORMATION  
THAT MIGHT  
LEAD US TO  
SOMETHING.

CAN  
YOU GUYS  
SPLIT UP  
AND CHECK  
EACH  
ROOM?



WA-  
WAH!

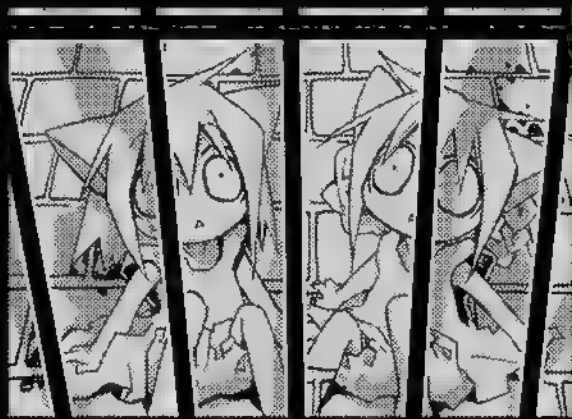
IS  
SOME-  
ONE  
THERE?



SORRY.  
THEN  
WHERE  
SHOULD I  
LOOK?

You always  
try to  
make me  
do all the  
work.

You  
should  
stop  
being  
lazy and  
search,  
too!



YOU CHOSE  
THE MOST  
DANGEROUS  
SPOT FOR  
ME, DIDN'T  
YOU?

THE  
base-  
ment.

You  
can  
start  
here.





CAN WE  
REALLY  
GO  
OUT?

OUT?

ANYWAY,  
I SHOULD  
LET YOU  
KIDS OUT.



YOUR  
TURN  
NOW!

WE  
SAID OUR  
NAMES!



DAAASH!

THEN  
WE'RE  
GOING  
OUT.



BLACK  
PER-  
SON-  
SAN.

PER-  
SON IN  
PITCH  
BLACK.

WHO ARE  
YOU?



NIJUKU?  
SANJU?

THEY  
VAN-  
ISHED?

WE'RE  
HERE.

OVER  
HERE.



MY  
NAME'S  
KURO...

...I  
GUESS?

SINCE...

...I'M  
IN ALL  
BLACK...



WHOA!?

OVER  
HERE.

KURO-  
CHA.



YEAH.

I THINK  
SO, TOO.

BUT IT'S  
PERFECT.

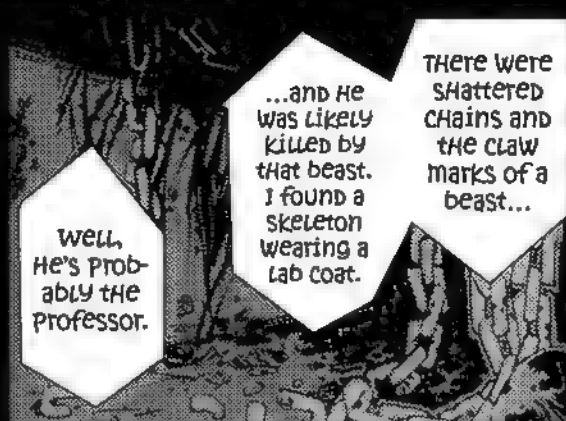
WHAT A  
WEIRD  
NAME.

KURO-  
CHAN

KURO-  
CHAN

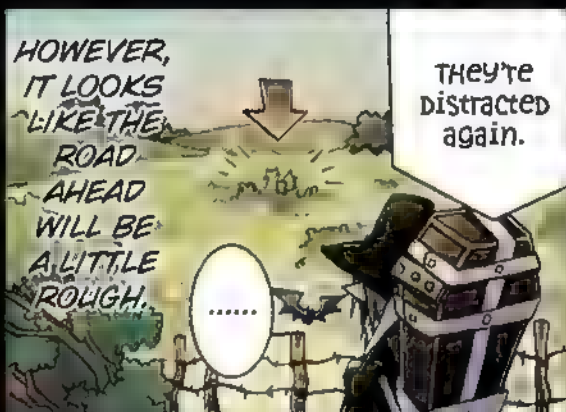


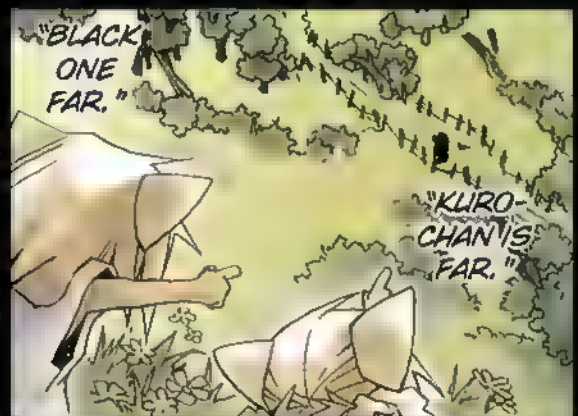
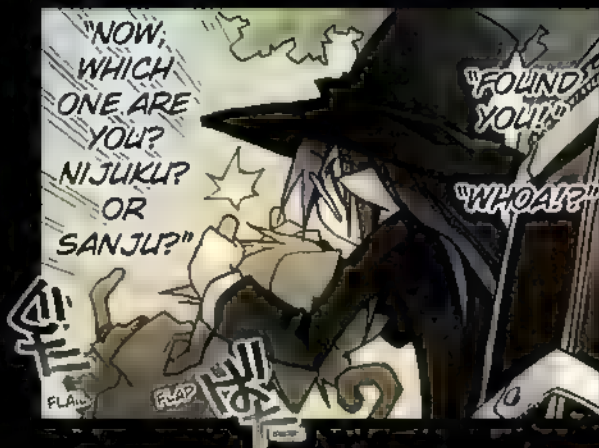
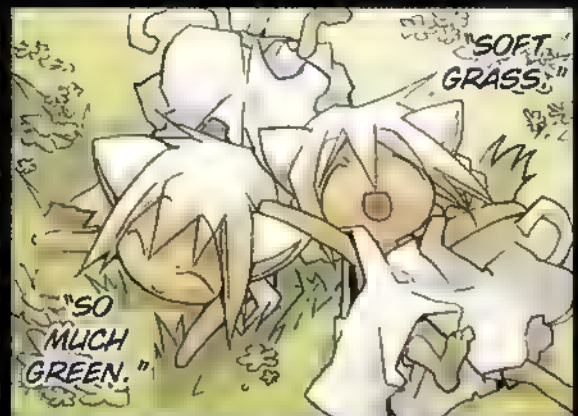
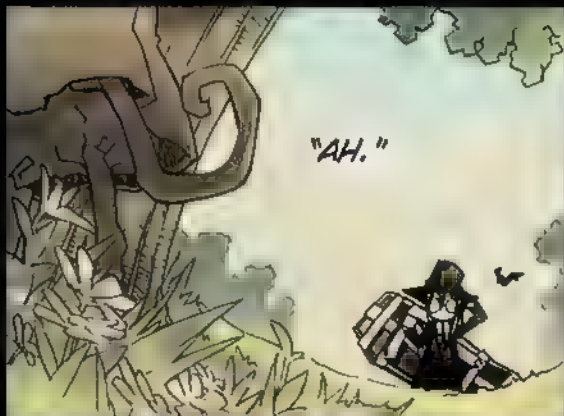
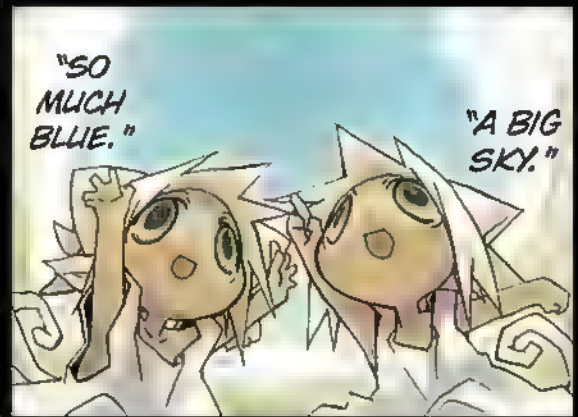




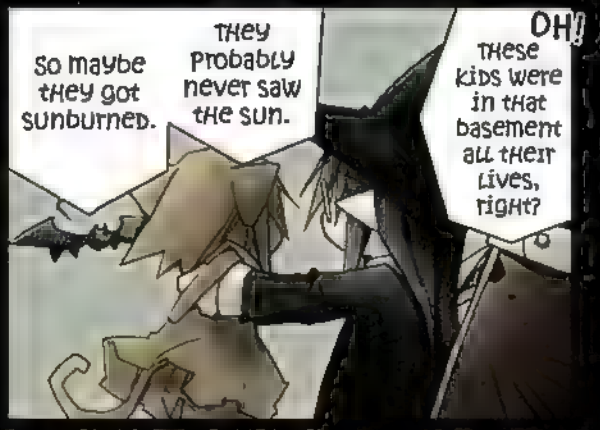
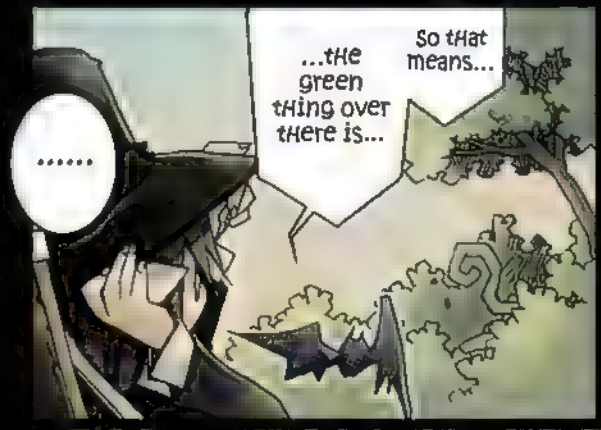
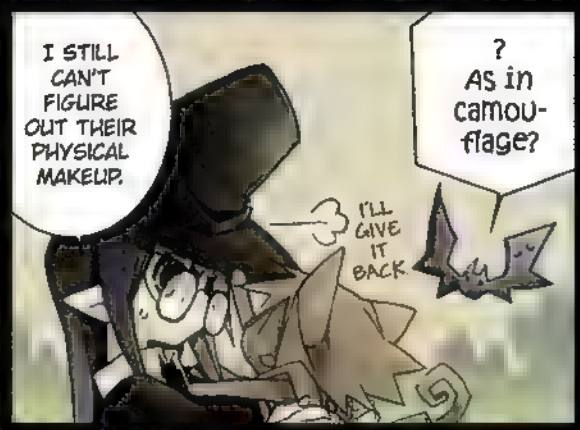
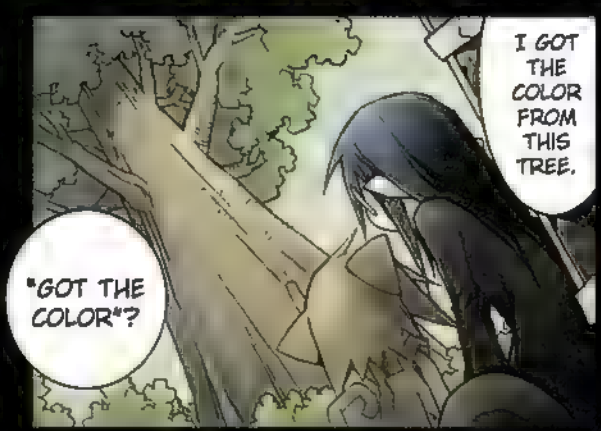




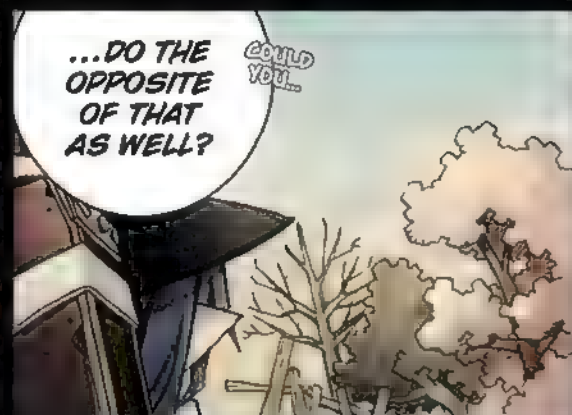
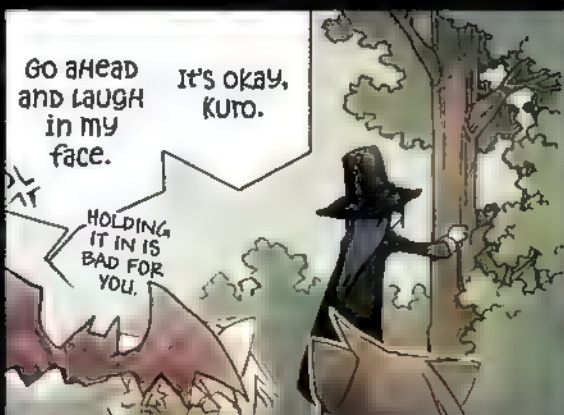
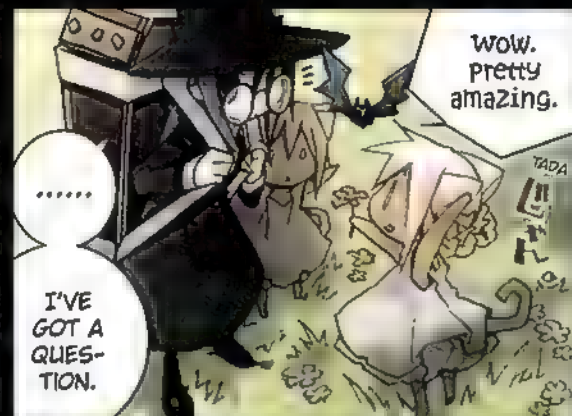
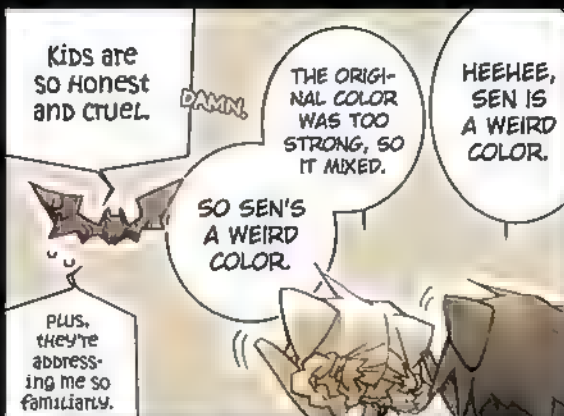
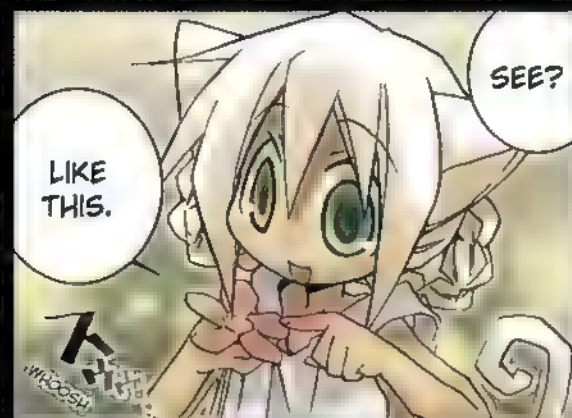












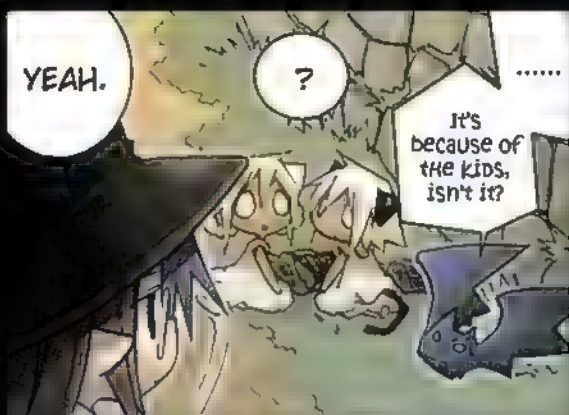
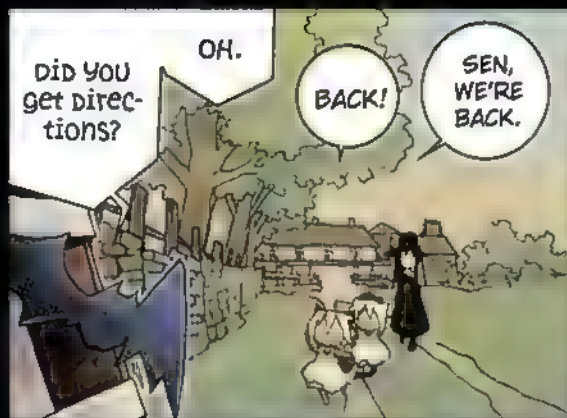
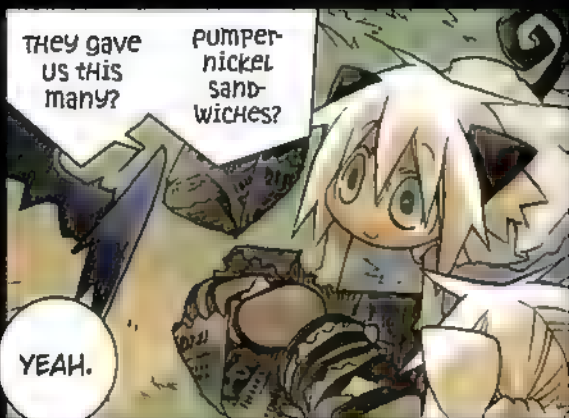
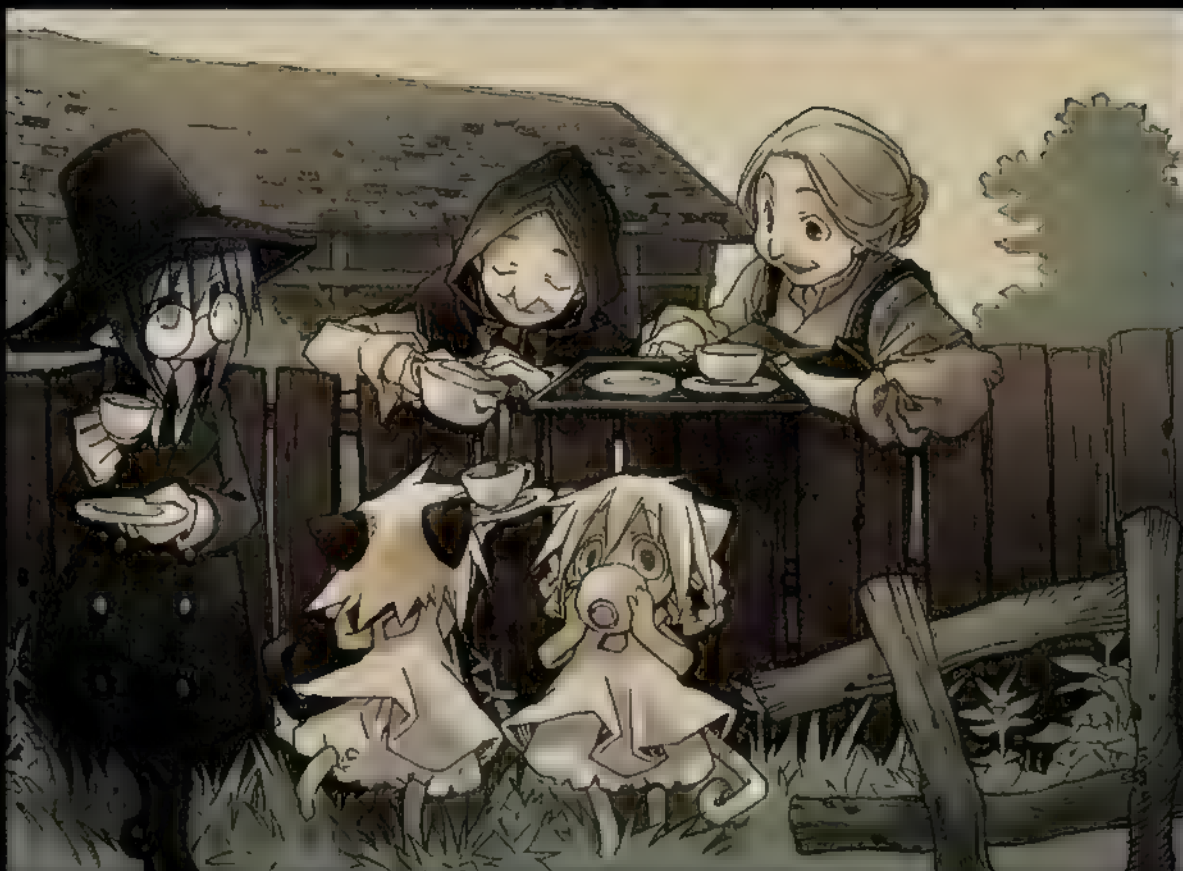




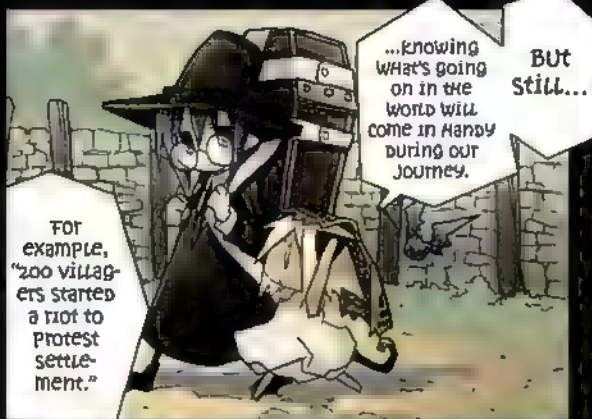












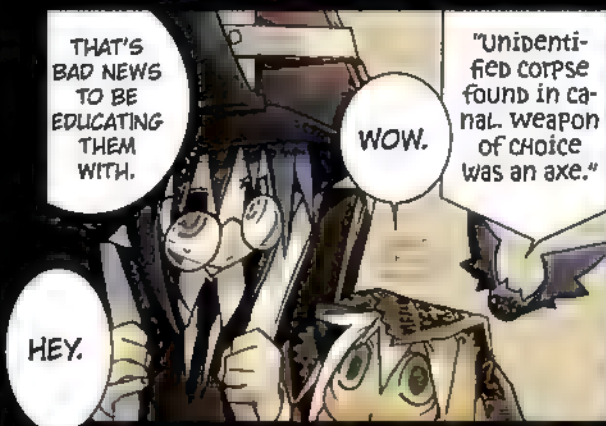
For example, "zoo villagers started a riot to protest settlement."

...knowing what's going on in the world will come in handy during our journey.

BUT STILL...



OH, give me that paper.

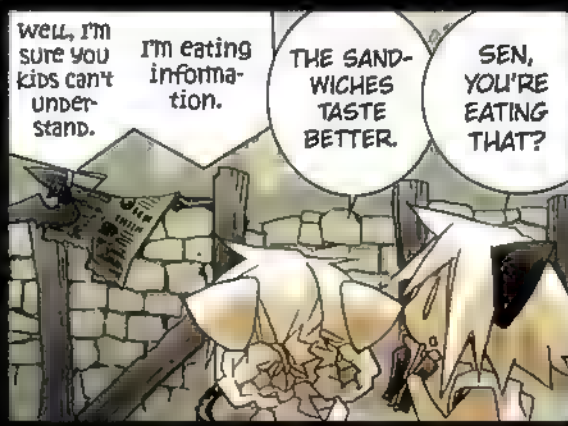


THAT'S BAD NEWS TO BE EDUCATING THEM WITH.

WOW.

"Unidentified corpse found in canal. Weapon of choice was an axe."

HEY.



Well, I'm sure you kids can't understand.

I'm eating information.

THE SANDWICHES TASTE BETTER.

SEN, YOU'RE EATING THAT?



WHAT'S THIS?



SO, IT KNOWS WHERE THE PROFESSOR IS, TOO?

It knows things you guys don't know.

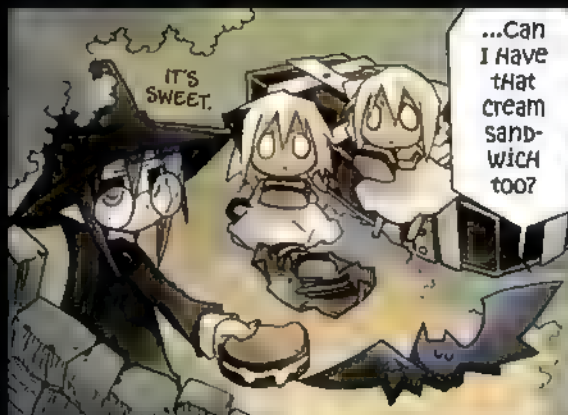
There's a lot of information about the world in newspapers.



SORRY, BUT I'M STILL ALIVE.

NO, but maybe in a few days.

IS THAT WRITTEN IN THE "NEWSPAPER" TOO?



IT'S SWEET.

...Can I have that cream sandwich too?









SING?

BUT IT'S  
A LITTLE  
LONELY IF  
IT'S JUST  
MUSIC AND  
DANCING.

SING?

CAN  
YOU  
GUYS  
SING,  
TOO?



YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

OH, BUT  
LOOK.

THOSE  
TWO JUST  
GOT  
SOME-  
THING.



PLEASE  
DON'T ASK  
THE KIDS TO  
DO DIFFICULT  
THINGS.

IF YOU COULD SING  
A SAD LOVE SONG  
ABOUT ARISTOCRATS  
OR A SONG ABOUT  
SOLDIERS AND  
THE KING'S HEAD  
GETTING CHOPPED  
OFF, THAT WOULD  
BE IDEAL.

IF YOU  
SING, IT  
ATTRACTS  
MORE PEOP-  
LE. THEY  
LIKE IT.



KIDS'  
CLOTHES,  
EH?

THEY  
SAID IT'S  
"HAND-ME-  
DOWNS."

WHAT'S  
THIS?

TO BE  
EXPECTED  
CONSID-  
ERING  
WHAT  
THEY'RE  
WEARING.



WE  
DON'T  
KNOW  
"SONG."

WHAT'S  
A SONG?

YOU DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
WHAT A  
SONG IS?

WHAT!?



IF THEY  
PUT THOSE  
ON, THEY  
WOULDN'T  
LOOK AS  
PATHETIC!

HEY,  
DON'T!

AREN'T  
YOU  
GLAD?

DO YOU  
WANT TO  
WEAR  
THEM?

WE  
WEAR  
THEM?

WEAR?



WHAT  
IS IT?

WHAT  
IS A  
SONG?

IF YOU'RE  
A TRAVELER,  
YOU SHOULD  
KNOW AT  
LEAST ONE  
SONG.

SHEESH,  
HOW  
USE-  
LESS.



Maybe it  
would've  
been better  
if we hadn't  
saved him.

AT LEAST  
UNTIL WE  
MAKE MY  
LIVING AND  
FUEL EX-  
PENSES!

UNTIL WE  
MAKE A  
DECENT  
AMOUNT,  
NO  
CLOTHES!

HUH?









SFX: WHISPER



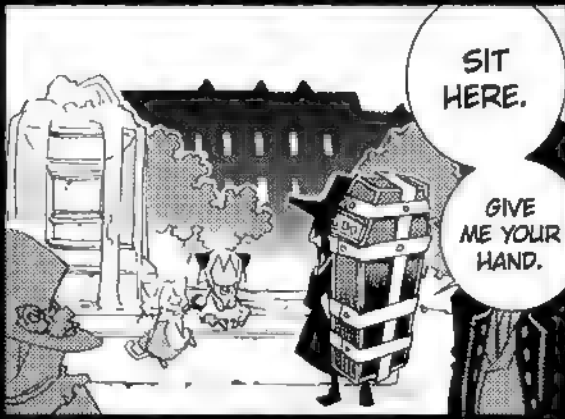
The traveler looked on them from afar and said this:

"But I probably can't do more for them than the Professor can do now."









SFX: BLUNTLY







I HEARD THE PROFESSOR'S VOICE...

.....

SANJU, WHY ARE YOU BEING FIDGETY?

...I THINK.



And there aren't many clues in this town either.

...I BOUGHT THE BANDAGES...

LET'S SEE.



I HEARD IT.

I CAN'T HEAR IT.

?

I SMELL HIM TOO...

...I THINK.



THAT'S TRUE, WE SHOULD RETURN SOON.

I wonder if those two are waiting patiently?

OH!



OH!!

I KNEW IT! YOU ARE ACTING STRANGE!



SANJU?

THAT'S THE PROFESSOR!!

DASH



You're being nicer now that you know one of them hates you.

THOSE TWO ARE STILL BAREFOOT, HUH?



I ALREADY TOLD THEM...

...THAT THEY "CAN'T SEE PROFESSOR" AND "HE WENT TO A DIFFERENT WORLD."



ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT THEIR PROFESSOR.

When are you going to tell them the truth?



PROFESSOR!



I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SAYING ANYTHING.

They still believe they can see him again.



THE REST IS UP TO THEM. THEY NEED TO FIND THE ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES.



THOSE KIDS STILL DON'T KNOW A LOT OF THINGS...



IT'LL....

...PROBABLY TAKE TIME.



...THE MEANING OF PEOPLE "DYING."

...INCLUDING...









HE WOULD  
HIT MY  
EARS  
WITH THE  
BRUSH,  
OR PULL  
MY HAIR.

BUT  
HE WAS  
HOR-  
RIBLE  
AT  
BRAID-  
ING MY  
HAIR.



...USED TO  
ALWAYS  
TIE MY  
LONG  
HAIR.

THE  
PRO-  
FES-  
SOR...



...AND MY  
FAVORITE  
TEST  
TIME.

IT  
WAS MY  
WORST...



...WHEN  
I COULD  
HAVE THE  
PROFES-  
SOR  
ALL TO  
MYSELF.

IT WAS  
JUST A  
LITTLE  
TIME..













BUT I'M SURE THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN ALL THE TIME...

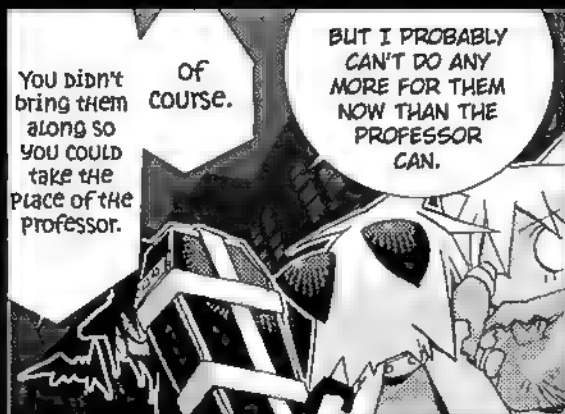
PHIEW. WHAT A TIRING DAY.

...AS LONG AS THOSE KIDS ARE WITH US.



I'M SORRY SHE CAUSED YOU TROUBLE.

I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY CAME FOR HER.



YOU DIDN'T BRING THEM ALONG SO YOU COULD TAKE THE PLACE OF THE PROFESSOR.

OF COURSE.

BUT I PROBABLY CAN'T DO ANY MORE FOR THEM NOW THAN THE PROFESSOR CAN.

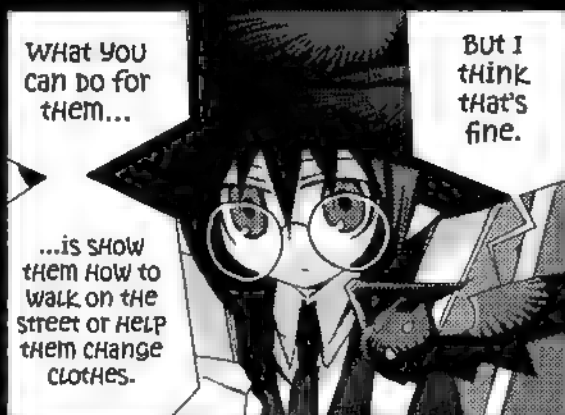


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S ALREADY PAID FOR.

YOU CAN TAKE THIS.

?

OH, THANK YOU.



WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THEM...

BUT I THINK THAT'S FINE.

...IS SHOW THEM HOW TO WALK ON THE STREET OR HELP THEM CHANGE CLOTHES.



OH, MY.

I'M NOT GOING!

THAT MAKES ME HAPPY, BUT IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE SO STUBBORN.

I'M A CHILD OF THIS HOUSE!



AND SCOLD THEM ABOUT ONLY EATING ONE CANDY A DAY.

STRICTLY!



EXCEPT FOR YOU.

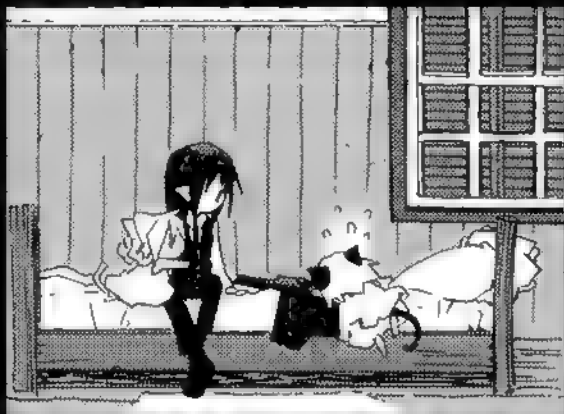
I'VE NEVER SEEN A CHILD...

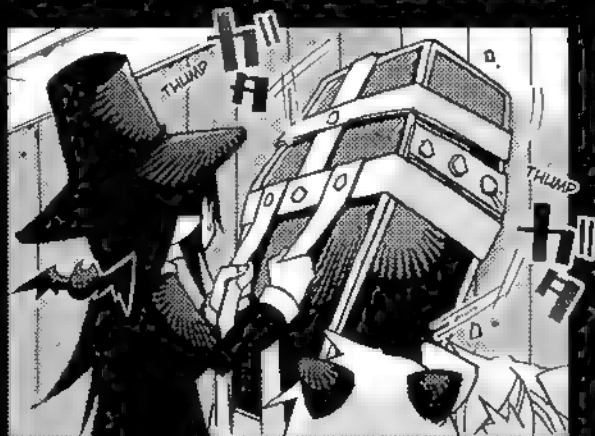
...WHO WOULDN'T SMILE, EVEN WITH ALL THE CANDY IN MY STORE.





SFX: SNIFF SNIFF



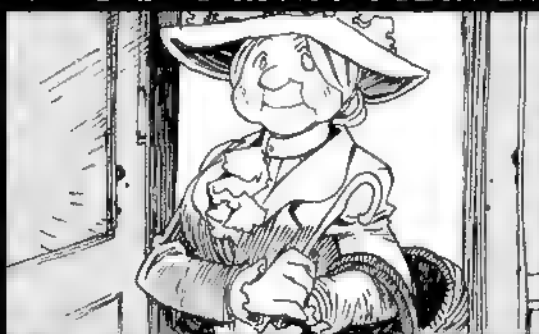






I HAVE COFFEE, BUT...

I'LL ALSO HAVE SOME COFFEE BEANS AND CANDY.



OH, WELCOME, BELUI-SAN.

WOULD YOU LIKE BREAD AND THREAD?



IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO RUN OUT OF CANDY.

DID SOMEONE BUY IT ALL?



...I'M SORRY, I ONLY HAVE THIS MUCH CANDY TODAY.

OH, MY.



OH, PERFECT TIMING.

BELUI-SAN, WOULD YOU MIND WAITING A BIT?



UM, IS THIS THE PLACE?

HELLO. I'VE GOT A DELIVERY.



BUT I  
GUESS  
HE WAS  
WELL-  
LIKED.

I THOUGHT  
IT WOULD BE  
A LONELIER  
FUNERAL.



THAT  
OLD MAN'S  
PRETTY  
ECCENTRIC.

BUT BE  
CARE-  
FUL.



A PER-  
SON WHO  
MET A  
WITCH?

YES.

I HEARD  
THERE  
WAS  
SOMEONE  
AROUND  
HERE...

THE  
STORY  
STARTS  
A LITTLE  
WHILE  
BACK.



THEN THE  
OLD MAN  
MUST BE  
REALLY  
WEIRD.

UH,  
ABOUT  
EVEN.

MORE  
PECULIAR  
THAN THIS  
ONE?

HEY.



?

OH, THAT'S  
WHY YOU  
HAVE TWINS  
WITH YOU.

I'D THINK  
THE ONLY  
PERSON WHO  
WOULD SAY  
THAT IS THE  
OLD MAN  
FROM THE  
IVY-COVERED  
MANSION.



...AREN'T YOU TWO MARIE AND MARY?

OH!? NOW THAT I LOOK CLOSER...

?



THIS MANSION MUST BE IT.

Let's hope we find something this time.



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

AND I'M NOT MARY.

I'M NOT MARIE.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR OWN FATHER'S FACE?



HALT, YOU SUSPICIOUS BUNCH!!

HUH?



He sure is a weird man, as we heard.

??

COME OVER HERE AND LET ME TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOU.



YOU'RE PRETENDING TO BE A MORTICIAN TO CON MONEY OUT OF ME, RIGHT?

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!



I think He's more mentally unstable than weird.

LAST TIME I SAW YOU IT WAS ONLY THIS LONG.

MARY, YOUR TAIL HAS GROWN SO MUCH.



What's with the accusations mixed in with tall tales?!

TOO BAD! I'M NOT HANDING OVER THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS PASSED DOWN THROUGH MY FAMILY OR THE TREASURE I FOUND IN THE HAUNTED SHIP!



OH! HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT SECRET?!

WE HEARD THAT YOU MET A WITCH.

Let's get to the point, KUTO.

FINE, I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY EXCLUSIVELY.



I WAS ORDERED TO RETRIEVE SCALES FROM A DRAGON WHO LIVED IN TURF—

IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS TRAINING TO JOIN THE ARMY...



SO AS I WAS FALLING UPSIDE-DOWN, I MADE A PUDDLE WITH RED WINE AND JUMPED IN IT—

WHEN I PASSED THE 583RD MOUNTAIN PASS AS THE KING HAD ORDERED ME, A COMET WITH A HORSESHOE—

THE PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY WORE BLACK AND WHITE CATS ON THEIR HEADS DAILY—



I was about to leave right now!!

hey, that's not fair!!

MAKE SURE TO HEAR EVERY WORD.

I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU, SEN.

THAT WAS WHEN A GIANT WHALE WITH A CASTLE ON ITS BACK APPEARED!!



SO MANY.

SO MANY WEIRD THINGS.

WOW.



...I'VE COLLECTED FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

ALL THE THINGS HERE...



THIS IS TO THANK YOU FOR FINDING MY DEAREST ALICE AND SYLVIE.

OH, I MUST THANK THE MORTICIAN.

I'M NOT A MORTICIAN.



IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS CONSTRUCTED WITH WAX.

A PURE SILVER CROSS!!

THIS IS SOMETHING I RECEIVED FROM SIR MUNCHALISEN WHEN I FOUGHT BRAVELY IN THE HOLY WAR.

And silver doesn't rust this badly, does it?



...WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE TWINS? THE PERSON I SPOKE WITH FIRST MENTIONED IT AS WELL.

HMM?

BY THE WAY...



YES.

THE FIBBER BARON!?

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE IN THIS VILLAGE CALLS HIM.

NOT THAT HE'S A REAL BARON.



THAT OLD MAN ACTS THAT WAY WITH ANY SET OF TWINS.

PURPOSE...

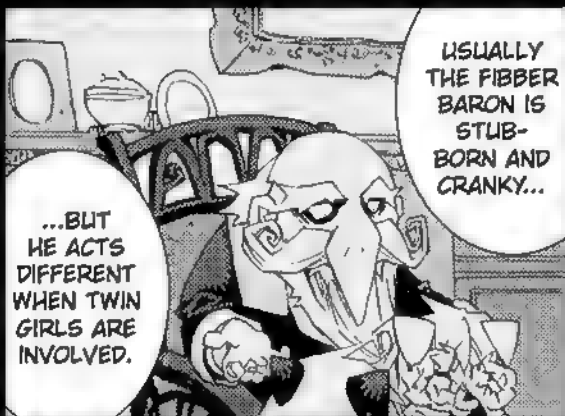
OH, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

I THOUGHT YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE.



BUT NOW HE'S LIVING ALONE IN THIS IVY-COVERED MANSION. THE ONLY HUMAN CONTACT HE HAS IS WITH ME. I COME BY ONCE IN A WHILE TO CARE FOR HIM.

BEFORE, HE WAS ACTUALLY LIVING A HIGH LIFE THAT MATCHED HIS FIBS.



...BUT HE ACTS DIFFERENT WHEN TWIN GIRLS ARE INVOLVED.

USUALLY THE FIBBER BARON IS STUBBORN AND CRANKY...



HE ONLY TELLS LIES...

...SO YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO INVOLVED WITH HIM.



THAT'S BECAUSE HE USED TO HAVE TWIN DAUGHTERS...

...WHO HE LOST TO AN EPIDEMIC OR SOMETHING.



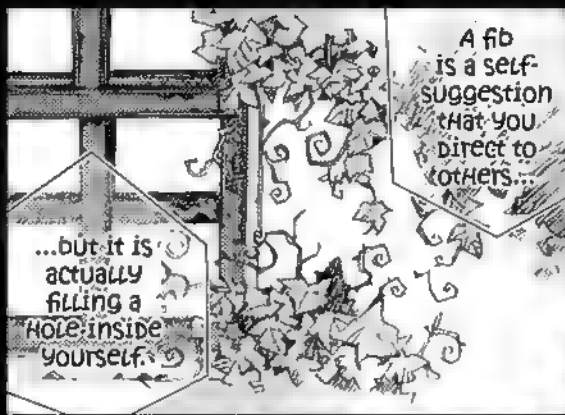
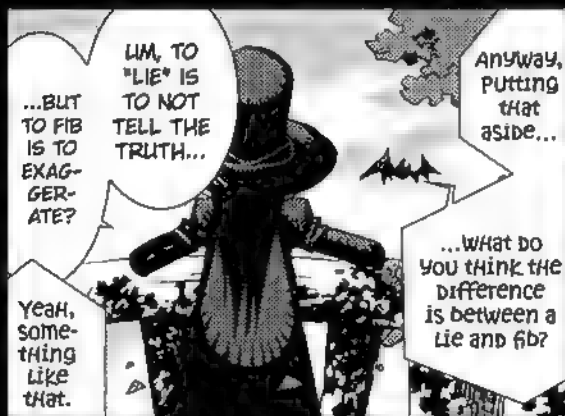
YOU WERE REALLY DISAPPOINTED, WEREN'T YOU?

TO MAKE AT LEAST ONE OF HIS LIES A "TRUTH."

I THOUGHT I WOULD GIVE HIM THE FINAL WORD, ONE LAST CHANCE...

WHAT'S WRONG?

THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CAME FOR.







You've never done anything like this over something someone said!

Even if you did get upset...

SORRY, I GOT A LITTLE UPSET.

WH-WH-WH-WH-What are you doing, Kuro!?



WELL, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, MORTICIAN.

I'm embarrassed that I was talking about the difference between a "fib" and a "lie."

PLEASE DON'T TEACH THE KIDS TO LIE.

I'M NOT A MORTICIAN.



well, it is the first time you were called a god of death.

I'M NOT MAD ABOUT THAT.

Then what gives?



IT'S NOT A "FIB" OR A "LIE"...

WHEN I SAW YOU...

...I REALLY THOUGHT TOO

...THAT I WANT THE KIDS AS MY CHILDREN.



Even if you got mad...

...you've never thrown things at...

AS I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...



...THAT THE GOD OF DEATH...

...BROUGHT BACK MY REINCARNATED DAUGHTERS.



"...AND NOT NISUKI OR SANJU!"  
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.

...BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO CARE...

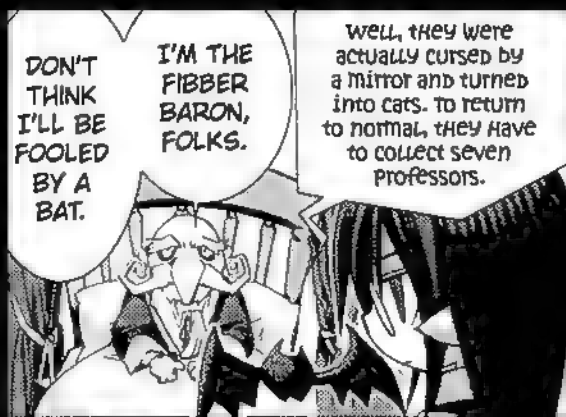
"...FOR HIS DEAD DAUGHTERS..."



WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?

TWENTY-NINE AND THIRTY...











OJII-CHAN!

CLICK

.....

...Let's tell the old man and get out of this village.

since we've decided...



YOU'LL LIVE WITH THAT OLD MAN HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO BE CHILDREN?

WHAT HAPPENS THEN?



UGH...

!?



NO, we'll be separated.

WITH KURO-CHA TOO?



ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT'S WRONG?!

UGH, MY ILLNESS...



BECAUSE WE HAVE TO TRAVEL WITH KURO-CHAN...

THEN WE WON'T DO IT.

...AND LOOK FOR PROFESSOR.



That's his next move, eh...

I CAN'T BREATHE WHEN CHILDREN ARE AWAY FROM ME...

SNEAKY



But you're relieved, right?

**SHUT UP.**

You're a little relieved but conflicted and a little disappointed, too?











HONESTLY,  
I CAN'T  
EVEN TELL  
YOU WHICH  
ONE IS MY  
WIFE.

THERE  
WERE CIR-  
CUMSTANCES  
THAT LEFT  
ME WITH  
JUST THIS  
PICTURE  
FROM HER  
CHILDHOOD.



WHY  
SO SUD-  
DENLY?

HUH!?



NOT  
SURE.

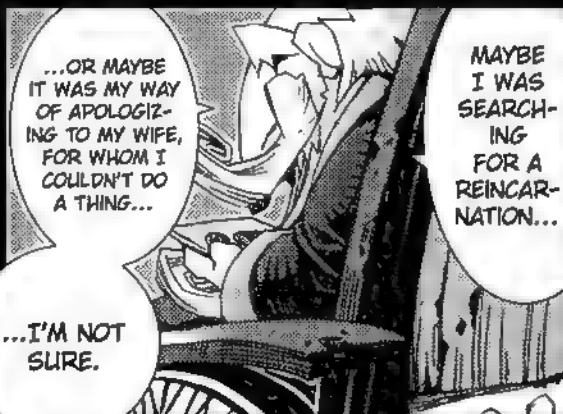
THEN  
WHY...

...WERE  
YOU  
FIXATED  
ON TWIN  
CHIL-  
DREN?



GO AHEAD  
AND CON-  
TINUE YOUR  
TRIP WITH  
THOSE  
GIRLS.

LIKE I  
SAID.



...OR MAYBE  
IT WAS MY WAY  
OF APOLOGIZ-  
ING TO MY WIFE,  
FOR WHOM I  
COULDN'T DO  
A THING...

MAYBE  
I WAS  
SEARCH-  
ING  
FOR A  
REINCAR-  
NATION...

...I'M NOT  
SURE.



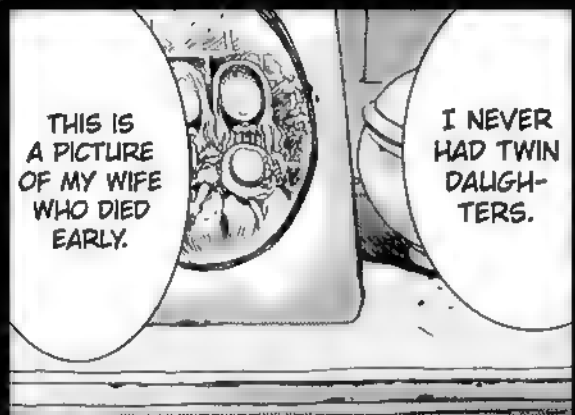
THAT'S  
THE LIGHT  
FLOWER MY  
WIFE USED  
TO GIVE ME.

THAT  
FLOWER  
REMIND-  
ED ME.



...SO I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
MY TRUE  
FEELINGS.

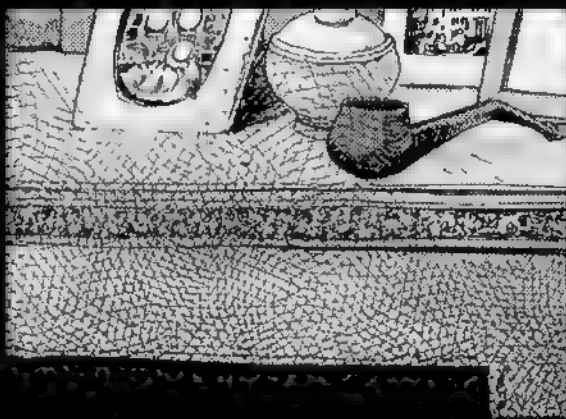
I CONTINUED  
TO LIE...



THIS IS  
A PICTURE  
OF MY WIFE  
WHO DIED  
EARLY.

I NEVER  
HAD TWIN  
DAUGH-  
TERS.

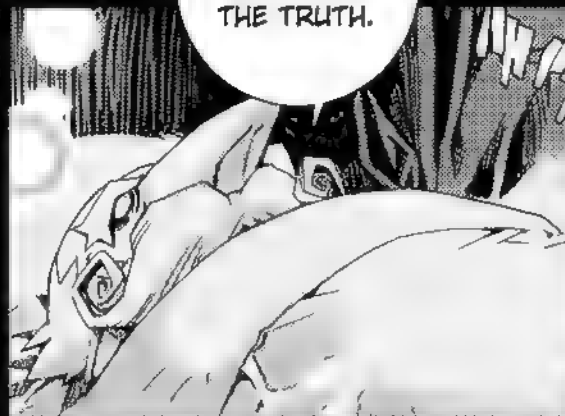




OH  
YEAH.

HOW DID  
THE KIDS  
KNOW ABOUT  
THE LIGHT  
FLOWER?

I NEVER  
TOLD THEM  
THE TRUTH.



I SEE.

IT WAS  
YOU...



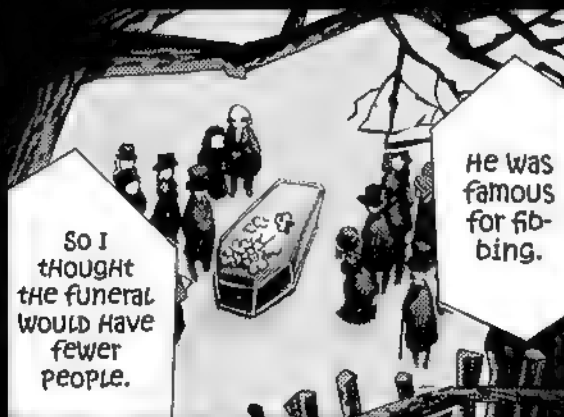
CAN YOU  
TAKE ME  
ALREADY?

I'M TIRED  
OF TELL-  
ING FIBS.



THAT'S WHY  
THE OTHER  
PEOPLE  
ARE SAYING  
THEIR FINAL  
GOODBYES.

HE'S  
THERE, BUT  
NOT THERE  
ANYMORE.



SO I  
THOUGHT  
THE FUNERAL  
WOULD HAVE  
FEWER  
PEOPLE.

He was  
famous  
for fib-  
bing.



HMM...

HE'S  
THERE...  
BUT NOT  
THERE!

WE  
DIDN'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
THAT  
MEANT.



TRUE.

BUT I  
GUESS HE  
WAS WELL  
LIKED.



BUT OJII-  
CHAN...

...WAS IN  
THE SAME  
BOX AS  
THE ONE  
KURO-CHAN  
CARRIED  
AROUND...



He's not  
sleeping.  
He's dead.

KURO-  
CHAN,  
WHAT  
ARE THEY  
DOING?

WHY IS  
OJII-CHAN  
SLEEPING?



...WAS  
GOING TO  
GO ON A  
JOURNEY  
LIKE KURO-  
CHAN, TOO.

...SO WE  
THOUGHT  
THAT MUST  
MEAN  
THAT OJII-  
CHAN...



BUT  
OJII-CHAN  
IS THERE.

It means  
that he's  
gone.

DEAD?





OH, SORRY.  
I COULDN'T  
HELP BUT  
NOTICE...

YES?

.....

?

WHAT  
IS IT,  
SEN?

.....

BE-  
CAUSE  
I NEED  
IT.

WHY?

YEAH.

I GET  
THAT  
A LOT.

...YOU'RE  
CARRYING  
A VERY  
PECULIAR  
THING.

OH?

ARE  
YOU... A  
GIRL?

THAT'S ACTU-  
ALLY MY GRAND-  
FATHER.

HEEHEE,  
ISN'T IT  
NICE?

WOW...  
I'M SEEING  
ONE FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME.

SO  
THAT'S  
AN AIR-  
PLANE?

YEAH.

I GET  
THAT  
A LOT,  
TOO.

.....

I SEE...

I'M CUR-  
RENTLY  
LEARNING  
TO BECOME  
A PILOT,  
TOO.



...IN A  
PLACE I  
THINK I  
PASSED  
BY ONCE  
BEFORE...

ONCE  
UPON A  
TIME, IN A  
HOUSE ON  
THE HILL  
AT THE  
EDGE OF  
TOWN...



OH, YOU'RE  
RIGHT. I'M  
GLAD IT CAME  
AFTER THE  
LAUNDRY  
DRIED...

BUT  
THERE'S A  
BLACK  
CLOUD  
OVER  
THERE.



ARE YOU  
SURE YOU  
CAN CARRY  
THIS?

YEAH!



OH!?

SMOKE

SMOKE



HEHE,  
YEP.

IT'S SO  
FLUFFY!

IT'S  
SUCH NICE  
WEATHER.









IT MIGHT BE  
A DIFFERENT  
PERSON, BUT  
I DO KNOW  
SOMEONE  
LIKE THAT.

OH!  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.

BY THE  
WAY, DO  
YOU KNOW  
THE BLACK  
TRAVELER,  
TOO?

HOLD IT.  
IT'S A  
BUNCH OF  
GIRLS AND  
KIDS!!

GEW!

PLEASE  
MAKE  
YOURSELF  
COMFORT-  
ABLE  
WHILE YOU  
WAIT.

IT'S JUST  
THAT THE  
TRAVELER  
DOESN'T HAVE  
MANY SOCIAL  
SKILLS, SO  
I'M A LITTLE  
CONCERNED.

THE  
TRAVELER  
WORE BLACK  
CLOTHES AND  
A HAT AND  
CARRIED SOME  
BIG LUGGAGE,  
AND THERE  
WERE TWO OF THEM.

I CAN'T  
SAY ANY-  
THING. I'M  
A VISITOR,  
TOO.

NO...

ARE YOU  
CARELESS  
OR IGNO-  
RANT?

AND YET  
YOU LET A  
SUSPICIOUS  
WANDERER  
IN?

IT'S JUST  
THAT THE  
TRAVELER'S  
APPEAR-  
ANCE GETS  
HER INTO  
TROUBLE.

NO, IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
THAT.

OOH!

IS ONE  
OF THE  
TRAVELERS  
YOUR LOVER?

DON'T  
WORRY.  
THAT  
WITCH IS  
PRETTY  
NICE.

NO...

NOW  
I GET  
IT!!

OH, I  
SEE. WE'RE  
THE ONES  
WHO'RE  
GONNA BE  
EATEN.

IT'S  
OKAY.  
SHE'S A  
WITCH.

THEY'RE  
NOT  
FUGITIVES,  
EITHER!!

OH,  
MY!

DOESN'T  
THAT MEAN  
ONE OF  
THEM IS A  
FELON?

I KNEW THAT  
YOU WERE  
HELPING ME  
COOK TO  
SEE IF I WAS  
POISONING  
THE DINNER.

OF  
COURSE.

BUT SHE'S A  
WITCH, SO IF  
YOU TRY TO  
SNEAK OUT, SHE  
MIGHT BE ABLE  
TO SEE IT.



HEHEHE.  
LET'S  
SEE...

AND WHAT  
ABOUT  
THE TRAV-  
ELER YOU  
KNOW?



OH! WHAT  
KIND OF A  
TRAVELER  
WAS IT?

HUH?  
YOU  
TOO?

I DON'T  
KNOW IF IT'S  
THE SAME  
PERSON, BUT  
I KNOW A  
BLACK TRAV-  
ELER TOO.

THEY  
HELPED  
ME WHEN  
I WAS IN  
A TOUGH  
SITUATION.



OH,  
AND SHE  
LEFT ME  
A LITTLE  
HAPPY-  
NESS.

THE ONE  
I KNOW IS  
A LITTLE  
CLUMSY  
AND CUTE.



THAT  
PERSON  
WAS TRAV-  
ELING WITH  
CHILDREN?

A GUY?

THE ONE I  
SAW WAS A  
GUY NAMED  
KURO WITH  
TWO KIDS.



BUT EVER  
SINCE SHE  
STOPPED BY,  
MY LIFE HAS  
CHANGED  
A LITTLE.

I USED TO  
LIVE HERE  
ALL ALONE  
FOR A LONG  
TIME.



IF IT'S HIM,  
I'D LIKE TO  
RUN INTO  
HIM AGAIN...

...ESPE-  
CIALLY  
WHEN I'M  
IN NEED.

HE LOOKS  
ECCENTRIC AND  
SEEMS TO RE-  
JECT PEOPLE,  
BUT IN REALITY  
HE'S TOO NICE  
AND EASY TO  
TAKE ADVAN-  
TAGE OF.



SO  
JUST  
LIKE  
THAT...

...I'M SURE  
SHE'S GOING  
ABOUT HER  
JOURNEY,  
LEAVING LITTLE  
FOOTSTEPS  
HERE AND  
THERE.



Maybe you  
should  
go to bed  
early.

HOW ODD.  
I'M NEXT TO  
THE HEAT,  
BUT I'M  
GETTING  
CHILLS.

SFX: CRACK













WELL,  
ACTU-  
ALLY...

...SMILAX  
IS MY  
CHILDHOOD  
FRIEND AND  
MY FIRST  
LOVE.

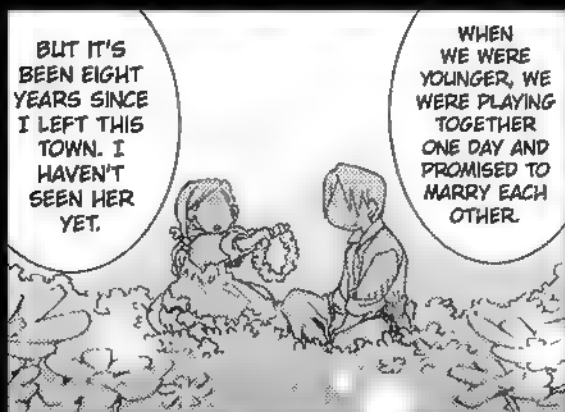


WHAT'S  
THE BEST  
FLOWER  
YOU'VE  
SEEN?

YOU'VE  
BEEN  
EVERY-  
WHERE,  
RIGHT?

I ENCOUN-  
TERED IT  
DURING MY  
JOURNEY.

BUT I  
KNOW  
LAVEN-  
DER.



BUT IT'S  
BEEN EIGHT  
YEARS SINCE  
I LEFT THIS  
TOWN. I  
HAVEN'T  
SEEN HER  
YET.

WHEN  
WE WERE  
YOUNGER, WE  
WERE PLAYING  
TOGETHER  
ONE DAY AND  
PROMISED TO  
MARRY EACH  
OTHER.



I SEE.

I SAW A  
SHINING  
FLOWER  
ONCE.

THERE  
WERE  
MANY.



...IN-  
STEAD  
OF  
DRINKING  
HERE.

THEN I  
THINK YOU  
SHOULD  
GO TO HER  
NOW...

BUT I'VE DECIDED  
TO PROPOSE  
TO HER. THAT'S  
WHY I MADE  
THIS PERFUME!



...IS THE  
FLOWER-  
SELLER  
SMILAX.

BUT, TO  
ME, THE  
FAIREST  
FLOWER...



AT LEAST  
IT'S ONLY  
ORANGE  
JUICE.

YOU'RE  
MAKING  
MY DRINK  
TASTE  
BAD.

I CAN'T  
MUSTER THE  
COURAGE.

THE PAST  
EIGHT  
YEARS ARE  
WEIGHING  
ME DOWN



BUT  
PLEASE  
LISTEN  
TO MY  
STORY.

OH,  
SORRY!  
I'M  
SORRY.

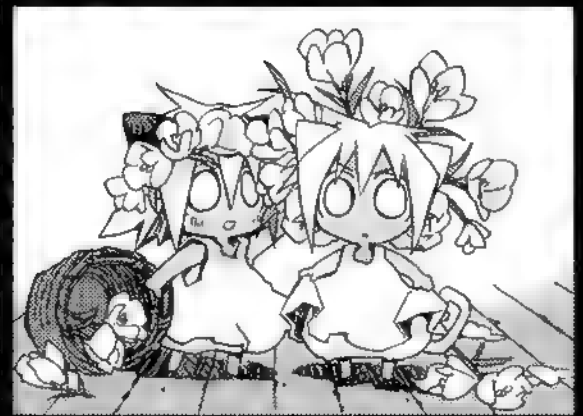
I'M  
WASTING  
MY TIME.

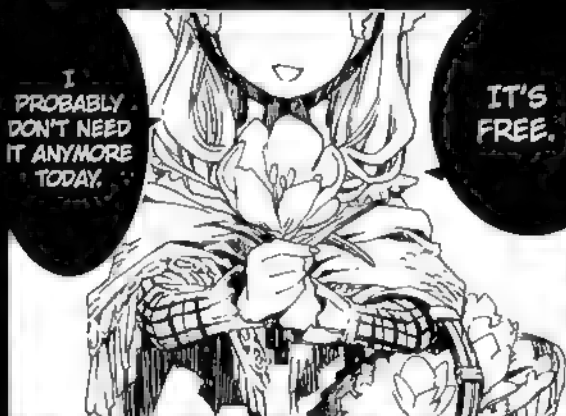
FIRST YOUR  
JOB, AND  
NOW YOU'RE  
BRAGGING  
ABOUT  
YOUR GIRL-  
FRIEND?

I'LL  
BUY  
YOU A  
DRINK.

CLATTER









KURO-  
CHA'S  
CROWN IS  
MESSED  
UP TOO.

YEAH.

THE  
FLOW-  
ERS GOT  
MESSY.



IT'S  
EASIER  
THAN  
PROPOS-  
ING...

WHY  
DON'T  
YOU ASK  
HER?

...SHE'S  
WAITING  
FOR ME?

DO YOU  
REALLY  
THINK...



LIKE A  
PRINCESS?

YEAH, A  
PRINCESS  
FROM THE  
LAND OF  
FLOWERS.

BUT LOOK,  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE  
WEARING  
FLOWERS.



IT'S MADE  
SO THAT YOU  
CAN SMELL  
ITS TRUE  
SCENT AFTER  
SOME TIME  
HAS PASSED.

HUH?  
IT MUST  
BE THE  
PERFUME.

I JUST  
SMELLED  
SOME-  
THING.

I SEE.



NIJUKU  
SMELLS  
LIKE  
FLOWERS  
TOO.

YEAH.

I COULD  
SMELL  
FLOWERS  
FROM YOU.



...MEANS  
THE SAME  
THING,  
DOESN'T  
IT?

LAVENDER,  
IN THE  
LANGUAGE  
OF FLOW-  
ERS...



YEAH.

I HOPE  
KURO-CHAN  
COMES  
HOME  
SOON.

.....  
KURO-  
CHA IS  
LATE.



IT'S A  
REALLY  
GENTLE  
SCENT.

YEAH.







WHAT?

...HAS  
A STORY  
BEHIND  
IT.

WHAT?  
WHAT?

THIS  
FLOWER...

THE  
GIRL...

...CRIED  
EVERY DAY  
FROM  
GRIEF.

BUT THEY WERE  
FORBIDDEN TO  
GET MARRIED...

...SO THE MAN  
KILLED HIMSELF  
OUT OF DESPAIR.

...WHO FELL  
IN LOVE  
WITH A  
SHEPHERD'S  
DAUGHTER.

THERE  
USED  
TO BE A  
HANDSOME  
MAN...

...AND  
CHANGED  
THE MAN TO  
CROCUS AND  
THE GIRL TO  
SMILAX.

A FLOWER  
GODDESS  
TOOK PITY  
ON THEM...

DON'T YOU  
HAVE A  
HANGOVER?

I DIDN'T  
DRINK  
ALCOHOL.

I'M  
UNDERAGE,  
AFTER  
ALL.

THAT  
SO?

one country  
uses those  
flowers in  
weddings.

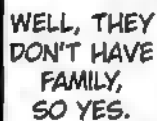
SHOOT, I  
CAN'T THINK  
STRAIGHT.

WHAT'S  
THAT?

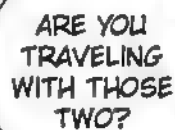
Let's see,  
where  
was that?

WEDDING?


WHICH  
COUNTRY?



WELL, THEY  
DON'T HAVE  
FAMILY,  
SO YES.



ARE YOU  
TRAVELING  
WITH THOSE  
TWO?



CAN YOU  
WRITE THE  
DIRECTIONS  
HERE?



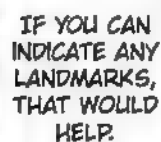
I DON'T  
KNOW WHY  
MEN LIKE  
TO DO THAT  
STUFF.



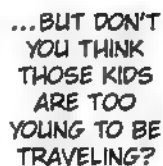
DURING  
THE SUMMER,  
HE SENDS  
ME LET-  
TERS FROM  
VARIOUS  
PLACES.



MY  
LITTLE  
BROTHER  
IS A WANDER-  
ER TOO.



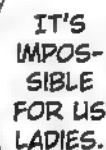
IF YOU CAN  
INDICATE ANY  
LANDMARKS,  
THAT WOULD  
HELP.



...BUT DON'T  
YOU THINK  
THOSE KIDS  
ARE TOO  
YOUNG TO BE  
TRAVELING?



LIVING IN  
VARIOUS  
PLACES  
WITH NO  
PLACE  
TO CALL  
HOME.



IT'S IMPOS-  
SIBLE  
FOR US  
LADIES.



WELL,  
I DON'T  
KNOW YOUR  
CIRCUM-  
STANCES...



ESPECIALLY  
SINCE IT'S  
GETTING  
WINDIER.



TAKE  
CARE.



THANK  
YOU.



YES,  
THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH.



IS THIS  
OKAY?







WE DID  
TEN HOW  
MANY  
TIMES?

NINE...  
TEN...

LET'S  
SEE.



WHAT?  
ALREADY?

OKAY,  
WE'RE GO-  
ING NOW.  
COME ON  
OUT.



ONE...  
TWO...

THREE...  
FOUR...

NINE...

...TEN.



I'LL WAIT  
FOR YOU TO  
COUNT  
UP TO  
100.

OKAY,  
FINE.

PLEASE,  
JUST A  
LITTLE  
LONGER.

A LITTLE  
MORE!  
A LITTLE  
MORE!



YEAH, WE  
HAVE TO  
GO BACK,  
SHE SAID.

...WHEN  
IT'S 100.

WE HAVE  
TO GO  
BACK...



OH, YOU  
CAN'T  
COUNT  
THAT  
FAR?

ONE,

HOW  
MUCH IS  
100?

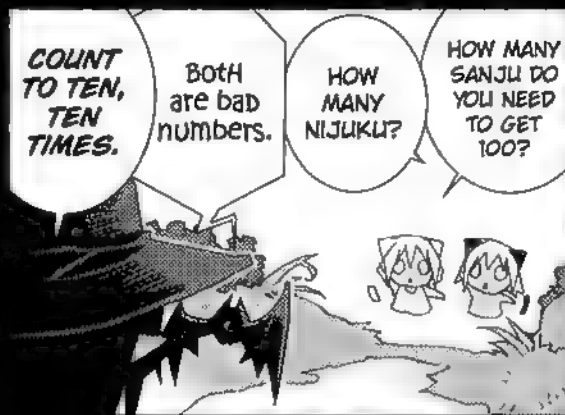
Then maybe  
they have to  
keep trying  
until they can  
count to 100.



YOU ONLY  
COUNTED  
THAT  
MUCH.

YEAH!

BUT! I ONLY  
COUNTED  
THIS MUCH!

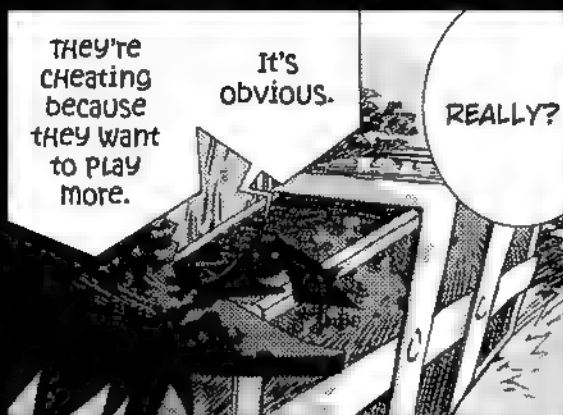


COUNT  
TO TEN,  
TEN  
TIMES.

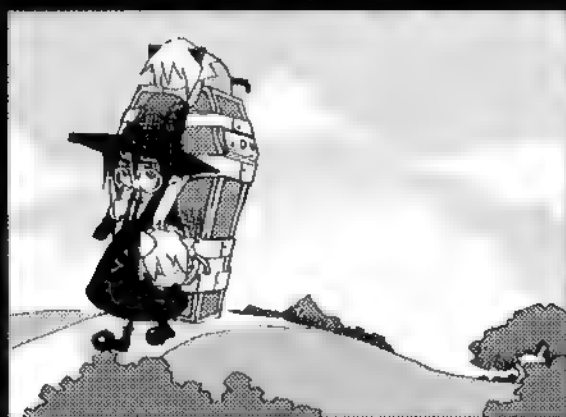
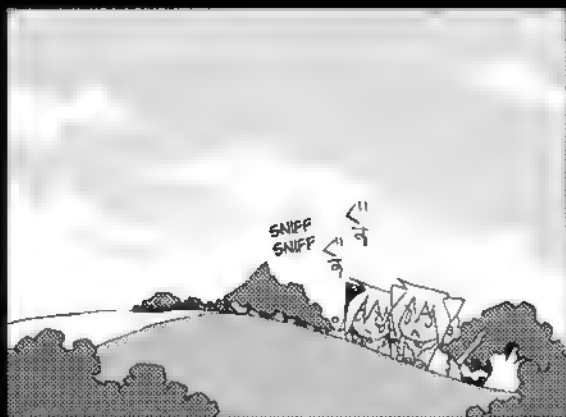
BOTH  
are bad  
numbers.

HOW  
MANY  
NIJUKU?

HOW MANY  
SANJU DO  
YOU NEED  
TO GET  
100?





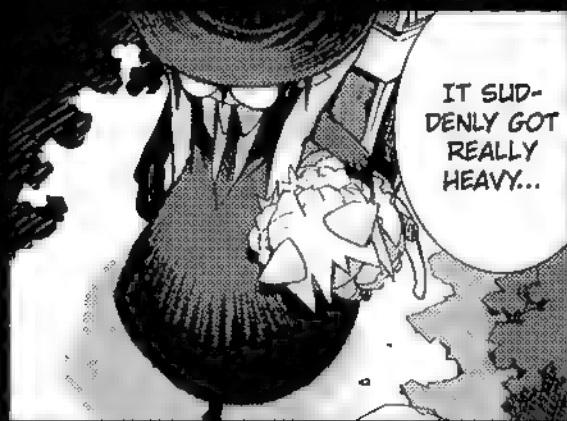






IT DOESN'T  
SEEM LIKE  
I'M GETTING  
CLOSE TO  
THE TOWN  
EITHER.

IT'S  
HEAVY... MY  
FEET ARE  
HEAVY.



IT SUD-  
DENLY GOT  
REALLY  
HEAVY...



...ON THIS  
JOURNEY?

DAMMIT.  
WHY  
AM I...



DID BOTH  
OF THEM  
FALL  
ASLEEP?

THEY'RE  
SO SELF-  
ISH.



I DON'T  
THINK OF  
ANYTHING  
DECENT  
WHEN I'M  
ALONE.

.....

STOP.



... I  
WALKED  
WITHOUT  
TALKING TO  
ANYONE.

IT'S  
BEEN A  
LONG TIME  
SINCE...



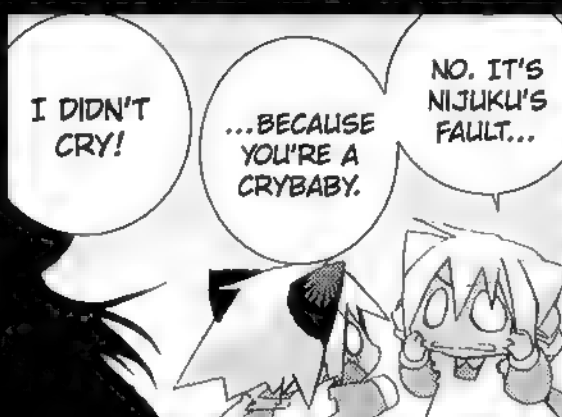
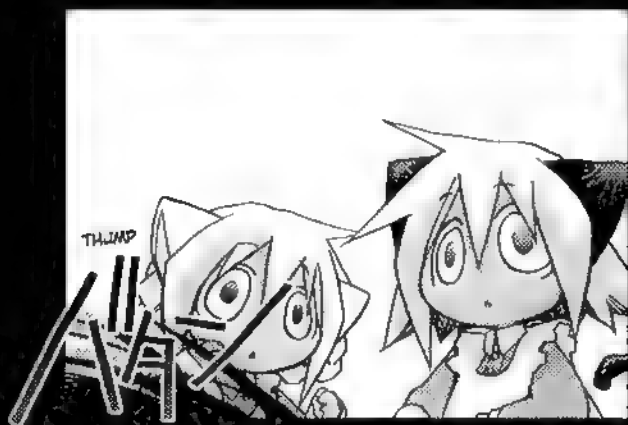
I SHOULD'VE  
CHANGED MY  
BANDAGES  
AFTER ALL.

I DON'T  
FEEL SO  
GOOD...



...IF I HAD  
LEFT THEM  
BEHIND.

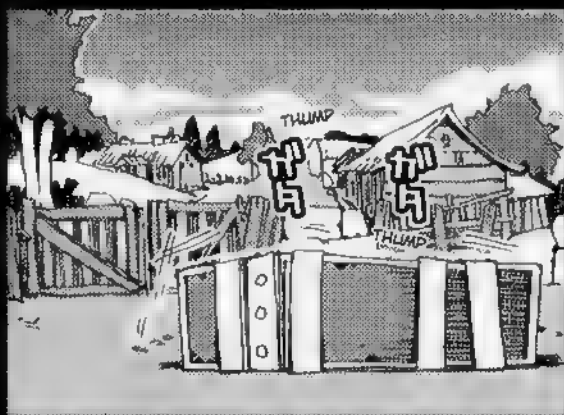
I WON-  
DER WHAT  
WOULD'VE  
HAPPENED  
TO THESE  
TWO...













YEAH,  
SHE  
DIDN'T.

KURO-CHAN  
DIDN'T ASK  
ANYTHING.



THAT'S  
WHY YOU  
WERE SO  
IRRITABLE.

YEAH, IT  
WAS JUST  
THE HEAT.

IS YOUR  
BODY  
OKAY?



NOW  
THAT WE  
THINK  
ABOUT  
IT...

YEAH.

KURO-  
CHAN  
KNOWS  
AND SHE'S  
QUIET.

BUT  
KURO-CHA  
PROBABLY  
KNOWS.



WAS  
THAT  
IT?

OH.

I'M SURE  
THOSE TWO  
WERE IRRITATED  
FOR THE SAME  
REASON.



...TO  
REALIZE  
LITTLE BY  
LITTLE...

...WE  
PROBABLY  
STARTED...

HEY.



...AND  
WHY  
SHE'S  
CARRY-  
ING A  
BOX.

...KURO-  
CHA IS  
TRAVEL-  
ING?

WHY  
DO YOU  
THINK...

...THE  
REASON  
KURO-  
CHAN IS  
A TRAV-  
ELER...



YOU DIDN'T  
CHANGE YOUR  
BANDAGES,  
RIGHT?

YOU  
WANT ME  
TO STEP  
OUT?



NO, IT'S  
OKAY.

THEY'VE  
BEEN  
CHANGED  
ALREADY.



THANK YOU FOR READING *SHOULDER-A-COFFIN KIRO*. I WOULD LIKE  
TO THANK MY EDITOR AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN MAKING THIS  
BOOK. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THOSE WHO PICKED UP THIS BOOK.

I WOULD BE HAPPY IF I COULD SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

SATOKO KIYODUKI

## TRANSLATION NOTES

### Page 9

*Janken* is the Japanese equivalent of rock-paper-scissors. Instead of saying "one, two, three," the Japanese say, "*Jan-ken-pon!*"

### Page 12

*Onii-san* can be used as a polite term for an unrelated younger man who is or appears older than the speaker.

### Page 34

*Nijuku* and *Sanju* are shortened terms for the numbers "twenty-nine" (*nijuuiku*) and "thirty" (*sanjuu*) in Japanese.

### Page 35

*Kuro* means "black" in Japanese.

### Page 75

Sir *Munchausen* refers to Baron Munchausen (1720-1797), a German baron who was infamous for his tall tales.

### Page 77

*Tadaima* is short for *tadaima modorimashita*, which translates as "I'm home." *Okaeri* is short for *okaeri-nasai* which translates as "Welcome back."

### Page 77

*Ojii-chan* is an affectionate term for an elderly gentleman.

### Page 93

The Japanese have a superstition that when you sneeze, it means that someone is saying something about you. If you sneeze once, someone is saying something good; if you sneeze twice, someone is saying something bad. If you sneeze three times or more, it's just a cold.



SOAKED  
WITH  
RAIN

THE  
LONELY  
MOUN-  
TAIN

"And it's  
a traveler  
unknown to  
youngsters."

"Oh,  
it's a  
traveler."



Shoulder-a-Coffin Kuro, Satoko Kiyuduki

...SOAKED  
WITH  
RAIN...

THE  
LONELY  
MOUN-  
TAIN...



"And it's  
a traveler  
unknown to  
youngsters."

"Oh,  
it's a  
traveler."



Shoulder-a-Coffin Kuro, Satoko Kiyuduki

# SHOULDER-A-COFFIN KURO

...SPEAK!

SEN is... well, Sen. Snarky to a fault, but often the voice of reason.

KURO often gets mistaken for a boy throughout her journey. While a large part of this is because of her appearance, it also has a lot to do with the way she talks in Japanese. Kuro always refers to herself with masculine pronouns and her speech is often more boyish than ladylike, just like Kuro herself!

NIJUKU and SANJU, Kuro's adorable companions, also have their own unique way of speaking. Their dialogue is written entirely in *kana*, which is made up of the two most basic writing systems of the Japanese language. This visual aid goes even further in stressing the pair's innocence and naiveté. They also speak in broken phrases, which we've tried to retain in this edition. Since one of the twins childishly refers to Kuro as "Kuro-cha," they're pretty easy to tell apart. Do you know which is which?





# SHOULDER-A-COFFIN KURO 1

SATOKO KIYUDUKI

Translation: Satsuki Yamashita    Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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